THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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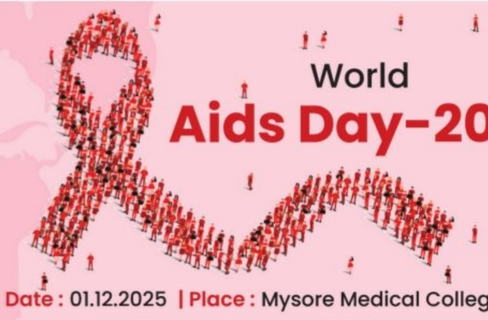
CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Virat marks milestone with ton in Ranchi

Virat Kohli, the No 3 batter made a statement, alongside Rohit Sharma who scored a fifty, with a remarkable hundred against South Africa. From straight drives to upper cuts to flicks to lofts down the ground, the 37-year-old was in his zone as he put behind the struggles of recent months to show why he is still the best in business. With 135 on board, he surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's world record of 51 ODI centuries | P13

Sri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Sri. D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister


World Aids Day-2025

Theme : Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response

Date : 01.12.2025 | Place : Mysore Medical College, J K Grounds Auditorium, Mysuru.

NACO National AIDS Control Organisation | Government of Karnataka | KSAPS Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society

Department of Health and Family Welfare
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society

Know your HIV Status, get HIV TEST FOR FREE at your nearest ICTC.

Hon'ble Health Minister Shri Dinesh Gundurao addressing during HIV campaign

AS IS ENSHRINED IN OUR CONSTITUTION, TO DEVELOP THE SCIENTIFIC TEMPER, HUMANISM AND THE SPIRIT OF INQUIRY AND REFORM IS THE FUNDAMENTAL DUTY OF EVERY CITIZEN OF THE COUNTRY.

IF ANY MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS ON HIV/AIDS CALL NATIONAL TOLL FREE HELPLINE NO 1097

Download the NACO AIDS app | Google Play | https://kspc.karnataka.gov.in | KarSAPS

Poll panel extends SIR schedule by one week

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AMID complaints of inadequate time for voter-list verification, the Election Commission of India on Sunday extended the entire schedule of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls by one week across nine states and three Union Territories.

In an official statement, the ECI announced that the submission of enumeration forms, originally scheduled to conclude on December 4, will now continue until December 11. The draft electoral rolls will now be published on December 16 instead of December 9, and the final voters' list on February 14, 2026, against the earlier deadline of February 7.

The SIR is being rolled out in Goa, Puducherry, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep.

The Election Commission has come under scrutiny after reports of deaths and alleged suicides involving Booth Level Officers (BLOs) from multiple states, with Opposition parties linking the incidents to mounting work pressure during the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls.

According to reports, several BLOs, tasked with door-to-door verification, form collection and polling-station rationalisation, were working long hours to meet tight deadlines. The families and colleagues have alleged that the stress and workload may have contributed to the deaths, prompting widespread outrage and demands for accountability.

The sharpest attack came from the Trinamool Congress, which accused the Election Commission of having "blood on their hands," arguing that the SIR timeline was "unrealistic" and had placed an unprecedented burden on field-level officials. A 10-member TMC delegation on Friday met with the EC and alleged that around 40 SIR-related deaths had occurred in West Bengal so far, accusing the poll panel chief of having "blood on his hands". However, the EC has dismissed the charges.

Booth Level Officers assist a voter in filling out the enumeration form for the Special Intensive Revision, in Bikaner, Rajasthan | PTI

SIR may heat up Winter Session starting today

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE stage is set for a stormy start to Parliament's Winter Session on Monday, with the Opposition demanding a full discussion on the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, while the ruling party is pushing for a discussion on 150 years of Vande Mataram.

During the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting of the Rajya Sabha on Sunday, the government declined to clarify whether any debate would take place on the broader topic of electoral reforms, despite repeated demands from the Opposition.

Earlier, at an all-party meeting, Opposition parties put up a united front demanding discussions on SIR, labour codes and national security. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju had stated that the decision on a discussion on the SIR would be taken at the BAC meeting.

At the BAC meeting chaired by Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan, opposition leaders agreed to cooperate to ensure smooth functioning of the House and urged the Rajya Sabha chairman to allow a discussion on the SIR exercise on Monday, the first day of the Winter Session of Parliament, said a source.

"Opposition parties conveyed that they want Parliament to run smoothly. They also sought a short discussion on the urgent need for further electoral reforms at 2 pm on Monday. If the discussion is not held, the government must be held responsible for disrupting Parliament, they said," the source said.

The government has listed 13 legislative bills and one financial bill for passage.

Veteran of 400 films, actor Umesh no more

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

VETERAN Kannada actor **MS Umesh**, known for his impeccable comic timing and contributions to theatre and cinema, passed away on Sunday at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology. He was 80 and was suffering from cancer.

Hundreds of fans and several prominent personalities from the Kannada film industry, as well as political leaders, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar, paid their last respects to the actor at Ravindra Kalakshetra. His last rites were performed at the Banashankari crematorium by his brother on Sunday evening

Umesh's daughter Jayalakshmi said he was admitted to hospital after he collapsed in the bathroom and sustained a fracture in his leg. P6

EXPRESS READ

5 killed, seven injured in Udupi road accident

Udupi: Five persons were killed and seven others injured after a goods vehicle hit a road median and overturned on NH-66 in Udupi on Sunday. Three workers were in the cabin, and nine in the rear portion of the vehicle | P6

Bill imposing 70% cess on tobacco on the cards

New Delhi: The Centre is set to replace the Compensation Cess with a new levy of 70% or higher on tobacco products. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will introduce the bill in the Lok Sabha on Monday | P10

EXPRESS INTAKE

Max temp drops to 20.2 degrees Celsius, city shivers | P2

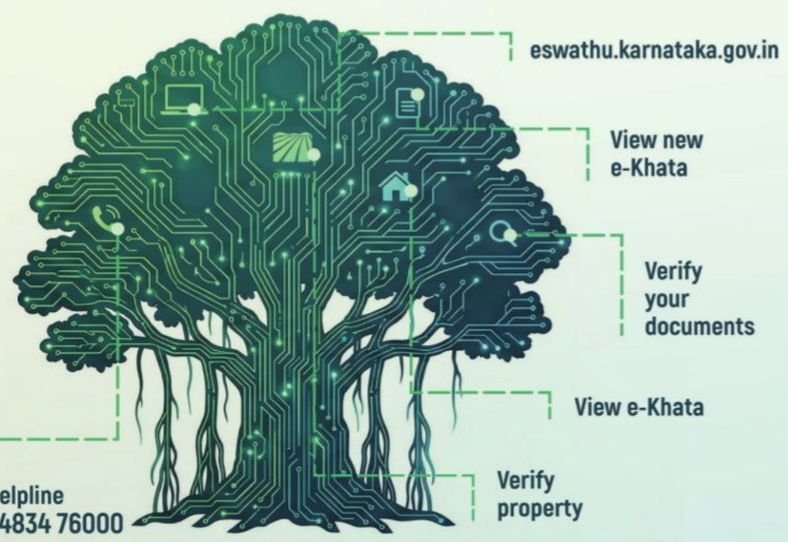
K'taka govt to procure maize at Rs 2,400 per quintal | P6

Tech-led police reforms key for Viksit Bharat, says PM | P10

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

Gandhi Grama Puraskara 2023-2024

Launch of e-Swathu 2.0



Inauguration
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

Eminent Presence
Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

Presided By
Shri Priyank Kharge
Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, E, IT & BT Department, Government of Karnataka

Chief Guest
Shri Rizwan Arshad
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly Shivajinagar Constituency

Securing Rural Properties with e-Khata

Apply online and receive your e-Khata from the comfort of your home

Date: 01.12.2025, Time: 11 AM | Location: Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha

"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition," is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen. This is affirmed by our Constitution.

Published by: Karnataka Panchayat Raj Commissionerate, RDPR

ALMANAC TODAY

Monday: 01.11.2025 **Year:** Vishwavasu **Ayana:** Dakhsinayana
Ritu: Himanth **Masa:** Margasira **Paksha:** Sukla **Tithi:** Ekadasi 2.07 pm
Nakshatra: Revathi 7.39 pm **Moon in** Mesha Rashi **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 18°C | MAX 28°C

FORECAST Overcast

Sunrise 06.26 am
Sunset 05.51 pm
Moonrise 02.38 pm
Moonset 01.56 am

Tech-driven SWM framework in the works

Govt to form high-level committee to implement end-to-end solid waste management system for city

INDRA S @Bengaluru

FOLLOWING directions from the Karnataka high court, the state government has mandated the constitution of a seven-member Nodal Oversight and Implementation Committee to roll out a technology-driven solid waste management (SWM) framework for the city.

Acting on the court's orders, the government, in its order dated November 28, said it will establish a 'One City, One Platform' digital system integrating dashboards, mobile apps, GPS tracking, weighbridges and CCTV surveillance for end-to-end SWM operations. The court had stressed that these components must function as a single ecosystem, where CCTV data, citizen reports and enforcement actions flow seamlessly through one platform.

The committee will be headed by the additional chief secretary, urban development department, with the chief commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority as vice-president. Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) will be the member-secretary and the five municipal corporation commissioners will serve as members. The panel must oversee implementation and ensure compliance with the high court's mandated timeline.

It may be recalled that the BSWML has been taking a slew of measures to improve solid waste management in the city, as Bengaluru's image has taken a beating by the rising number of garbage blackspots on its streets and poor waste management.

To discourage the public from dumping waste on roads and in open spaces, the authorities launched initiatives such as 'Kasa Suriyuva Habba' (garbage dumping festival), under which many of those found disposing waste in non-designated areas had a load of garbage dumped right in front of their home.

The BSWML also introduced a special drive offering a reward of Rs 250 to citizens who submit videos of litterbugs through a dedicated WhatsApp number or official social media handles.

Additionally, the organisation is set to establish over 70 kasa (garbage) kiosks to enable people to dispose waste at designated spots without waiting for collection vehicles.

Waiting to catch the first bus, a group of people huddle over a fire at Majestic Bus Terminal early on Sunday morning | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Max temp drops to 20.2° Celsius, Bengaluru shivers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BENGALURU'S icy chill and drizzle became the stuff of memes, as the city tucked itself in and shivered through Sunday. The city's maximum temperature plummeted to 20.2 degrees Celsius, well below Saturday's maximum of 25.3 degrees, as Cyclone Ditwah moved inward.

According to weather observer Ravi Keerthi, this is the seventh-lowest maximum temperature in Bengaluru for the month of November. "This is the 7th lowest maximum temperature of Bengaluru City IMD Observatory for November. It had recorded 20.2°C on 2nd Nov 2012. Lowest being 18.6°C on 26th Nov 1976," Keerthi had posted on his social media account on Sunday.

From sweat to sweaters, the sudden swing to 'London weather' kept city folk indoors, and the reels coming: 'Bengaluru switched on the AC and lost the remote' to celebrations of 'original Bangalore weather'. The mist-and-masala tea weather has its own legions of fans, though many did wonder how they would brave a foggy Monday morning to get to work.

The city's minimum temperature was 18.4 degrees Celsius, a slight increase by 1.2 degrees, as compared to the normal minimum temperature of 17.2 degrees Celsius. On Sunday, the city recorded 0.2mm rainfall, and the relative humidity was 98 per cent.

Children covered head to toe in warm clothes venture out with their parents | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

The forecast by Bengaluru Meteorological Centre, issued at 6pm Sunday, predicted the city will be cloudy, with light to moderate rain. "Mist very likely during early morning hours in some areas. Maximum & Minimum temperature very likely to be around 22°C and 18°C respectively," the forecast read.

The weather summary said cyclonic Storm Ditwah over southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining the north Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts moved almost northwards.

Citizen meet takes stand against 'reckless' Tunnel Road Project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

OVER 200 citizens, urban experts and scientists unanimously termed the proposed Bengaluru Tunnel Road Project (TRP) plan unscientific, fiscally reckless and environmentally disastrous. At a convention organised by the Save Bangalore Committee (SBC) on Sunday, the speakers highlighted that the detailed project report (DPR) contains 121 critical flaws, including plagiarised data, and warned that large-scale tunnelling could destabilise aquifers, worsen flooding and burden taxpayers for decades.

G Shashikumar, convener, Save Bangalore Committee, described the Rs 42,000-crore project as unscientific, fiscally irresponsible and environmentally destructive. He warned that the project cost could escalate to Rs 70,000 crore, leaving citizens burdened with taxes and tolls for the next 40 years. He flagged 121 major flaws in the DPR and said the tunnel would serve only 1,800 car passengers per hour, compared to 69,000 by the Metro and 1.75 lakh via BMTC, making it an inefficient mobility investment.

Prof Ashish Verma, Transportation Engineer and Convenor, IST Lab, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), in his video message, called the project a "waste of public money" and a myopic solution that will harm the city for generations. Verma highlighted that the project offers limited congestion relief, imposes exorbitant tolls, up to Rs 300 per trip, making it elitist and risks severe environmental damage, including flooding and soil instability.

TV Ramachandra, Scientist Emeritus, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc, said, "Tunnelling through the hard rock beneath Bengaluru risks disturbing aquifers and groundwater flows. The environmental cost will be permanent, disproportionately affecting the city's water security."

He mentioned that the city is not prepared to handle floods and rains and pointed out that Bengaluru's climate challenges stem from rapid urbanisation, loss of 88% vegetation and 79% water bodies and unchecked concretisation, which have intensified the urban heat island effect and disrupted rainfall patterns.

Urban planner Prof MN Sreehari said the tunnel model suited coastal cities, not Bengaluru, and warned it would encourage private cars while neglecting public transport. Civic activist Kathyayini Chamaraj termed the project a "waste of public money" and a violation of institutional planning norms, seeking investment instead in BMTC, suburban rail and last-mile connectivity.

BIG DRAW

Despite the chill in the air and light drizzle, the ongoing flower show at Cubbon Park saw heavy footfall througout the day on Sunday. The 11-day event is on till December 7 | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Three lanes of Magadi-Mysuru Road link likely to open in January

INDRA S @ Bengaluru

WORK on the six-lane Major Arterial Road (MAR) linking Magadi Road to Mysuru Road has gained momentum, with three lanes likely to be opened to the public in January, according to Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) officials. The underpass connecting Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, being constructed using box-push technology, has also progressed as steel girder installation moves forward.

Officials said the project advanced after railway authorities cleared the installation of steel girders, which required temporarily suspending train movement on the track. With the girder in place under one of the two tracks that run between Bengaluru and Mysuru, trains can now run safely above, while excavation and construction continue below.

Once steel girders are installed on both the tracks, the BDA will begin the box-pushing process, pushing precast concrete boxes beneath the railway line to create the underpass for vehicle movement on the MAR.

A project official said if girder installation and box-pushing continue at the current pace, the first three lanes will likely be opened to the public in January. However, another official noted that progress also depends largely on timely approvals from the Railways for installing the girders required to push the second box and complete the other three lanes.

Officials said that once the underpass is completed, a cloverleaf interchange will be built to make the corridor signal-free. This portion will be taken up by National Highways Authority of India. Once complete, this road is expected to bring down travel time between South and West Bengaluru to 10 minutes from 60 minutes. The project was originally slated for completion by November 2025.

A BMTC bus blocks the entire road at Ejipura Circle while trying to make a U-turn, disrupting traffic at the narrow junction | KEVIN NASHON

BMTC BUSES CHOKE NARROW EJIPURA MAIN ROAD

ANUBHAB ROY @Bengaluru

THE Wind Tunnel Road in Ejipura (also called Ejipura Main Road), a narrow stretch that is congested by traffic from both sides, faces further problems because of alleged illegal operations of Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses.

Though the designated bus-stop created traffic bottlenecks even earlier, an illegal stop by some buses at the tri-junction only makes the situation worse.

Local residents alleged that the buses that are particularly responsible for the violation are 140-E and 141-E. These buses come from the Lower Agaram Road towards the Intermediate Ring Road that are connected by the Wind Tunnel Road. Instead of going all the way till the designated bus-stop, the buses stop at the tri-junction, let passengers out and wait till commuters fill up again before starting the return journey.

Anita (name changed), a drugstore keeper in the vicinity, said it has been happening for the last two months. "Most passengers here are devotees visiting the Sri Kodanda Rama Temple [near the traffic junction]. The buses let them out, and wait for passengers coming back from the temple," she said. 10 am and 5.30 pm are the time when the buses disrupt traffic the most, she pointed out.

Even beyond the fact that buses take up most of the space on the road when parked, they completely throw traffic out of gear when taking a U-turn before their return journey. Frequently, more than one bus is seen parked in the area, while four-wheelers and autorickshaws use illegal parking in the area, painting a bleak picture of the pathetic traffic condition on the stretch.

GT Prabhakar Reddy, chief traffic manager (operation), BMTC, said he will forward these concerns to relevant officials and get them sorted out.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

01st December : Hot and Hotter A lunar fire-sign trine on the first day Venus joins Mars in Sagittarius sends an astral headline: "Hot and Hotter." Hot: A clever post. Hotter: The DM it inspires. Hot: A new idea. Hotter: Someone funds it. Heat rises fast under this sky. A flirt becomes a plan, a plan becomes a breakthrough, and a spark becomes a blaze.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Things aren't clear-cut today. Since the "right" answer isn't obvious, stop worrying about being perfect and just do what helps. Wisdom isn't moral math. It's an emergent property of motion. It's acting in someone's best interest.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
To understand you quickly, people may slot you into a category. That's their limitation, not yours. Since you defy categorization, you may as well ignore these attempts. Keep exploring the whole array of you.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Efficiency isn't always best. Today you see a shortcut but may opt not to take it. The scenic route gives you something speed can't: company, conversation and small moments that make the whole trip worth it.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
If the rest of the week felt just like today, would you be happy about that? Don't wait for something big to change the mood. Tweak the energy now. A small shift today shapes the whole stretch ahead.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Your big plans are getting bigger. Ironically, that means focusing on dozens of small, crucial details today. The care you take now is what will make the whole thing unforgettable later.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Maybe these distractions should be the main event. They certainly will add color, texture and spice. They make good memories, and that gives you a chance to enjoy life repeatedly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
When you're not sure of the rules or the situation seems a bit chaotic, you go out of your way to make sure you've done the right thing. But put a limit on those efforts. Let other people assume some of the responsibility for how things evolve.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
Using your talent is satisfying. It's so good to do what you love. It may seem like you're not using your gifts enough right now, but hopefully the little taste of satisfaction will be encouragement to take a bigger bite.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
You're in pursuit of something exciting. The real fun isn't in catching it; it's in the chase. The buildup is delicious, the strategy engages your whole mind, and the flirtation is where the magic is. Savor!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
You shouldn't have to impress anyone today, especially not the people who are already supposed to love and support you. If you're always driven to do extra, perform or serve, consider there may be an imbalance in play. It's worth pondering.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You'll learn a lot about someone from the usual questions, but the fun ones tell you even more. Ask something unexpected and see how they play. Their sense of humor will tell you what kind of soul you're dealing with.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
What's always available will not be properly valued no matter how intrinsically valuable it is. You can use this idea to motivate others today. If they have taken your attention for granted, holding back a bit will help them appreciate you.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

	2	3				5		4
		7	8	6				
9			2					
			7	2				
4		8	1		5	2		6
				4	6			
					2			7
				8	7	6		
1		4				8	2	

4	3	1	8	2	5	9	7	6
9	7	2	1	6	4	8	3	5
6	8	5	3	9	7	1	2	4
5	4	8	9	1	3	7	6	2
2	6	7	4	5	8	3	9	1
1	9	3	2	7	6	4	5	8
8	5	4	6	3	9	2	1	7
7	2	9	5	8	1	6	4	3
3	1	6	7	4	2	5	8	9

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Live fast (5)
8 Knock Jack down; he's a loafer (8)
9 In skill the French sentry should be (5)
10 Farewell to an Inca ruin in Spanish port (8)
11 Join in a very loud Latin number (5)
12 Observe the bishop's concern (3)
16 The length an association will go to? (6)
17 Assembling a steel plant (6)
18 Meal where gateaux form the centrepiece (3)
23 One is vertical in flight (5)
24 Mean by various means to obtain some cheese (8)
25 Leading chess player (5)
26 Kept quiet (8)
27 Short sergeant-major; nothing but petty (5)

DOWN

2 Elated having got promoted (8)
3 Deportment of unusual air and grace (8)
4 It holds wine for a service in church (6)
5 Melba cocktail for the lady (5)
6 Speak evil about none (5)
7 Collected maps of African mountains (5)
12 Hard to place (3)
13 A Greek character had food sent up (3)
14 Amateur bandsman? (5,3)
15 You'll find the answer at the foot of the column (8)
19 A shiny top coat (6)
20 Musical work taking a long time to produce (5)
21 Short encounter results in the end of a fox (5)
22 Long tale about the east (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Commission, 6 Zero, 10 Tunic, 11 Tightrope, 12 Botswana, 13 Loyal, 15 Crinkle, 17 Diabolo, 9 Eyesore, 21 Cut fine, 22 Cloak, 24 Teashops, 27 Outnumber, 28 Molar, 29 Lion, 30 Tendemess.

Down: 1 Cute, 2 Mandoline, 3 Incas, 4 Situate, 5 On guard, 7 Ebony, 8 Overlooked, 9 Stalwart, 14 Screech owl, 16 Knock out, 18 On impulse, 20 Eatable, 21 Chaired, 23 Outdo, 25 Homer, 26 Iris.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

NIOGG

SOIBN

SFYIHT

DZOCAI

What's his problem?
Are you blind?
Oops! Coming through. Sorry.
10/6
THE CLUMSY FLYING MAMMAL THAT KEPT BUMPING INTO THE CAVE WALLS WAS A BIT OF A ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print the answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: DIGIT GRAND CANVAS FUTURE
Answer: The stage performers sometimes had problems when it came to — INTERACTING

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A rowdy-sheeter was hacked to death near Amruthi village in Pandavapura taluk of Mandya on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Mahesh (40), a resident of Lakshmisagar village. He had multiple cases registered against him at the Melukote police station. The police were considering an externment order against him

Spl court junks advance bail plea of 6 GBA engineers in ₹250-cr scam

'Big crime, scam involving bureaucrats, politicians & contractors has become very common'

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

A Special Court in the city rejected the anticipatory bail petitions filed by the six engineers, including the two retired chief engineers of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), in connection with the alleged misappropriation of Rs 250 crore by creating bogus bills for the works not done in the city.

"Nowadays, this type of crime and scams by bureaucrats, politicians and contractors with high-handedness has become more common without the fear of law and moral responsibilities. The common people, having become the silent spectators, are witnessing this type of scams with no voice to resist because of high-handedness and lawlessness", said Judge K M Radhakrishna, Special Court for Lokayukta Cases.

The accused are Doddaiah AB, retired Chief Engineer; Sateesh, Assistant Executive Engineer; Vijay Kumar N, retired Chief Engineer; Shilpa M, Assistant Engineer; Basavaraju, Assistant Executive Engineer, and one M Siddaramaiah.

The court said that the investigating agency has recently conducted a search of the houses and offices of the petitioners. The seizure of several documents from petitioners and others is reported to the court. The court said that the documents and the case diary suggest that not only the people who filed the petition, but also other unknown individuals, were involved in the crime and acted in a very forceful or abusive way.

According to the Lokayukta case, the petitioners allegedly issued work orders to the contractors to carry out the work in November and December 2019 by creating bogus bills in collusion with them and others, without carrying out the intended works. In January 2020, they released an amount to the contractors through Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL) based on bogus bills and misappropriated more than Rs 250 crore. A case was registered this year, and a probe is being done.

Stating that the peculiar facts of the case pressed the necessity of custodial interrogation to ensure the safety of the material witnesses, evidence and the effective investigation, the court said that there appears to be every possibility of derailing the course of the investigation if anticipatory bail is granted. This court held that this is not a fit case to grant the pre-arrest bail, as no grounds are made out at this stage, the court added.

The public prosecutor submitted that all the petitioners are high-handed people with the support of influential and invisible elements.

The petitioners claimed that a false case was registered against them more than five years after the date of work alleged to have been carried out, that too at the instance of the then Member of Parliament, to meet the political expediency. Moreover, the complaint does not indicate the specific role played by each one of them and the manner in which they were involved in the crime, they alleged.

Cops bust interstate cyber racket, cash, laptops worth ₹6.15L seized

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Udupi

THE district CEN Crime police have busted an interstate cyber fraud racket that created a fake Campa Cola franchise website to cheat unsuspecting applicants.

Two people from Bihar were arrested, and cash, laptops, and mobile phones worth Rs 6.15 lakh, were confiscated. The arrested accused are Dev Harsha, (20) and Chandan Kumar (29) both hailing from Nalanda district in Bihar. A police team carried out the operations in Patna and Bengaluru to trace and arrest the duo.

The team seized 10 mobile phones valued at Rs 97,000, four laptops worth Rs 68,000, and Rs 4.5 lakh in cash from their possession. The case began after complainant Avinash applied online for a Campa Cola franchise a brand owned by Reliance Industries through a website he believed to be genuine.

Later, he received emails and calls from the accused seeking documents and claiming his application was approved.

Trusting them, he shared his educational certificates, bank statement and Aadhaar card. The accused then instructed Avinash to make multiple payments towards "registration" and "product booking". In total, he transferred Rs 5.72 lakh to various bank accounts. When the suspects continued to demand more money, Avinash grew suspicious and realised he was cheated. Despite taking the amount, the accused neither provided the franchise nor returned the money. Following the complaint, a was registered at the Udupi CEN Police station under sections 66(C) and 66(D) of the IT Act and section 318(4) of the BNS Act.

> **The team seized 10 mobile phones valued at Rs 97,000, four laptops worth Rs 68,000 and Rs 4.5 lakh in cash from their possession**
> —Police

SALUTING THE STATE

Cubbon Park Walkers' Association president Umesh salutes the Karnataka flag during the Kannada Rajyostava celebrations organised by the Association along with the horticulture department, in Bengaluru, on Sunday. Also seen are Senior General Manager of The New Indian Express (Karnataka) P Suresh Kumar (extreme right) and Deputy Director of Horticulture (Cubbon Park) Kusuma (second from left) and others | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Fall in HIV cases doesn't show whole picture: B'luru docs

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

AS India marks World AIDS Day, doctors in Bengaluru say the reported fall in HIV cases may not reflect the full picture. According to national data, there is a decline in new infections because more people get tested early.

However, specialists caution that some high-risk groups remain underrepresented. "Every year, awareness campaigns help people understand HIV, how it spreads, and what precautions to take," says Dr Subramaniam Swaminathan, director of infectious diseases at Gleneagles Hospitals, Bengaluru.

He noted that urban populations are increasingly aware of preventive measures, but gaps remain, particularly in rural communities. Accidental exposures, such as needle pricks or unprotected sexual encounters, still occur, and timely intervention through post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) has prevented infections in thousands of cases. "Many patients come to us only when the infection has progressed significantly. Unless we create safe, confidential, and non-discriminatory spaces, we cannot control transmission in these groups," he added. He also highlighted that preventive medicines like PrEP remain largely inaccessible in India.

Dr Mahesh Kumar JM, Internal Medicine, KIMS Hospitals, said, "Needle sharing is still a big problem. Young people experimenting with injectable drugs often do not realise how quickly HIV and hepatitis can spread."

Dr Aishwarya R, consultant in infectious diseases at Aster RV Hospital, said the presentation of HIV is changing. "Earlier, patients often used to come with opportunistic infections like disseminated tuberculosis. Now, we are seeing more HIV-associated cancers, particularly diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. Pediatric cases and elderly presentations have declined." "In the last two years, the incidence of new HIV infections has decreased by nearly 50%," said Dr Mahesh Kumar. "Early diagnosis and treatment improve patients' quality of life. A single pill daily, making adherence easier."

Doctors emphasised that family involvement and community support are crucial in reducing stigma. Government programmes, particularly the National AIDS Control Organisation, have strengthened access to testing and treatment.

MAN BOOKED FOR ISSUING FAKE GOVT ORDERS RELATED TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT, CHEATING GP MEMBER

Bengaluru: The Vidhana Soudha police have registered a case against a man for allegedly creating and circulating fake government orders related to rural development projects and cheating a Gram Panchayat member by collecting money from him for the project. The accused Chidananda Prabhugowda Biradar, a resident of Devarahiloaragi in Vijayapura. According to the complaint filed by N Ravikumar, Deputy Director (Rural Development) and currently the in-charge under secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) department, a gram panchayat member, Mallanna Siddappa Nakettin, had submitted a petition to the RDPR department on November 24, 2025. In his petition, he alleged that fake copies of official government orders were being distributed, purporting to approve road works in the Sindagi Assembly of Vijayapura. Siddappa stated that he had been provided a fake copy of a government order bearing the number GRAAP:428-(1): RRC:2025 (E-1628885), dated February 16, 2025, which supposedly sanctioned road works under the Rural Development wing, and that the accused had collected money from him. Following this, the department verified the documents and confirmed that the order was fabricated. The accused had allegedly forged the signature of KC Devarajegowda, Director (Rural Development). The police said that Mallanna will be questioned based on the information provided. Prabhugowda will also be summoned for questioning. ENS

BCU team leaves for Khelo India

ENS @ Bengaluru

A Bengaluru City University (BCU) team, which is set to participate in the 5th Khelo India University Games in Rajasthan till December 5, was officially sent off by Vice-Chancellor Prof Ramesh B on Sunday.

The 35-member team will take part in events like hockey, swimming, shooting, weightlifting and fencing. Prof Ramesh praised the team for its consistent performance in various sports, especially hockey, over the past five years. He expressed confidence that the team will bring back more trophies.

Registrar Naveen Joseph A, registrar (evaluation) Ramesh B Kudenatti, finance officer M Vijayalakshmi, in-charge director of physical education Prof Shivashankar K and sports coordinator Muhammad Sibgatulla were present.

EXPRESS READ

Man held for stabbing wife to death

BENGALURU: Seshadripuram police arrested a security guard for allegedly stabbing his wife to death on Saturday evening in Seshadripuram, after she refused to reveal her sister's whereabouts. The accused allegedly had an affair with the victim's younger sister. Nagappa Poojari, the security guard who fled the scene, was arrested on Sunday. The deceased Sharamma (23), was a homemaker. The couple was living in a shed at an under-construction site in Seshadripuram, where Poojari worked. They hailed from Bijapur and had been residing in the city for the past one-and-a-half years. According to the police, around 6.30 pm on Saturday, Poojari confronted Sharamma, demanding to know the whereabouts of her younger sister. He had been unable to contact her for the past 20 days. An argument broke out, during which Poojari allegedly stabbed Sharamma twice with a kitchen knife. She succumbed to her injuries on the spot. Other workers at the construction site alerted the police. ENS

Truck hits bike, mom & son killed on spot

BENGALURU: In a tragic incident, a 41-year-old woman and her 19-year-old son died on the spot after a container truck hit their two-wheeler on Mysuru Road on Sunday. The deceased have been identified as Ashwini, a security guard at a private hospital, and her son Abhilash, a student. They were residents of Doddagollarahatti. Abhilash was on his way to drop his mother to work around 7 am when he tried to navigate his scooter through a narrow gap between a car and a container truck. The truck brushed against his scooter, and he and his mother fell on the road. The rear wheel of the truck ran over them, fatally injuring them in the head and legs, killing them on the spot. The Byatarayanapura traffic police registered a case against the truck driver, and are investigating further. The police said that though there were two helmets on the scooter, neither Ashwini nor Abhilash wore them. ENS

TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (TISS)
V.N. Purav Marg, Deonar, Mumbai - 400 088
(A Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
(A Grant-in-Aid Institute under Ministry of Education, GoI)

TISS ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

TISS announces admissions for the following Full-Time (Regular), Post-Graduate Degree Programmes at its **Mumbai Campus** for the Academic Year 2026-2027 based on the **CAT Score-2025.**

1. **Master of Hospital Administration (MHA)**
2. **M.A. in Human Resource Management & Labour Relations (MA-HRM&LR)**
3. **M.A. in Organisation Development, Change and Leadership (MA-ODCL)**

Candidates should follow the CAT advertisement/CAT website for registration to **CAT 2025 Examination.** Candidates registered for CAT 2025 and interested in applying to the TISS programmes should also register separately on TISS portal.

For information about Eligibility, Admission Procedure, Online Application Form and other updates/amendments, please visit **https://admissions.tiss.ac.in/admissions/ma/programmes/**

The last date for application is December 10, 2025. Registrar

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಘಟಕ, ಗೆಜ್ಜಲಗೆರೆ 571428
email:manmulpandi18@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08232-295130
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮಹಾಒ/ಶೇ.ತಾಂ/ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್/ಪಿ&ಐ-24/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.11.2025

ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಶೇಖರಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವಿವಿಧ ಶಾಖೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ದ್ವೈವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಮರುಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ /ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಮಾರ್ಗದ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್/ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್	ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
01	ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮಹಾಒ/ಶೇ.ತಾಂ / ಕ್ಷೇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್ / AH39/ Call–1/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.11.2025	ಉಪವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಭೇಟಿ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳು, ತುರ್ತು ಕರೆ ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ದ್ರವಸಾರಜನಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೀರ್ಯನಳಿಕೆ ವಿತರಣಾ ಮಾರ್ಗ	ಟೆಂಡರ್	12
02	ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮಹಾಒ/ಶೇ.ತಾಂ/ ಕ್ಷೇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/ Re-tender/ AH39/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.11.2025	ಉಪವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಭೇಟಿ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಮತ್ತು ತುರ್ತು ಕರೆ ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳು	ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್	06
03	ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮಹಾಒ/ಶೇ.ತಾಂ/ ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ/ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್/ 64/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.11.2025	ಆರ್.ಎಂ.ಟಿ. ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳು	ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್	12
			ಟೆಂಡರ್	11
04	ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮಹಾಒ/ಶೇ.ತಾಂ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್/ ಪಿ&ಐ–24/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.11.2025	ಹಾಲು ಶೇಖರಣಾ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳು	ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್	10
			ಟೆಂಡರ್	09

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 1) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಲಭಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **01.12.2025** ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **31.12.2025** ರ **13.00** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ 2) ಪ್ರೀಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **15.12.2025 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** 3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ /ನಮೂದಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **31.12.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ** 4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ (ಭಾಗ–I) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **02.01.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** 5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ: ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಸಭಾಂಗಣ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಬಂಧ ನೀಡಬೇಕಾದ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತು/ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJAWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 & Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website : www.ujvnl.com

RO No. 938 **e-Tender Date Extension Notice-09** Dated :29/11/2025

Due to unavoidable reasons, the dates of tenders invited against e-NIT No. 1/UJVN/DGM(Civil-ATTP)/2025-26 is hereby extended as follows:

Last Date of Online Submission of e-Tender	: 08.12.2025 up to 17.00 hrs
Last Date of Offline Submission of document (Document in original)	: 10.12.2025 up to 17.00 hrs
Date and Time of Opening of e-Tender Part-I	: 11.12.2025 after 11.00 hrs.

Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation etc. may be obtained from e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in

Dy. General Manager (Civil)
Arakot-Tiuni &Tiuni Plasu Project, Dakpathar

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Bagalkot University
(State Public University of Govt. of Karnataka)
Mudhol Road, Jamkhandi-587301, Dist.Bagalkote
Mail ID: bgkujkd@gmail.com **Office of the Registrar**
Website: https://bgku.karnatak.gov.in Tel.No.(08353) 295123

BGKUJ/RO/2025-26/585 **PRESS NOTE** Date:29.11.2025

-:Tender Notification (Through E-Procurement):-

1. The Registrar, Bagalkot University, Jamkhandi invites Tender through e-procurement for annual rate contract of vehicles on hire basis to Bagalkot University, Jamkhandi from **01.12.2025**. Desired eligible suppliers/Agency may apply before **15.12.2025 by 5.00 PM** through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
2. The Registrar, Bagalkot University,Jamkhandi invites Tender through e-procurement for annual rate contract of vehicles on hire basis to Officers of Bagalkot University, Jamkhandi from **01.12.2025**. Desired eligible suppliers/Agency may apply before **15.12.2025** by **5.00 PM** through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further information kindly visit University website **www.bgku.karnataka.gov.in** or the Estate office at University.

Sd/-
Registrar
Bagalkot University, Jamkhandi

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NEENA GOPAL
IN CONVERSATION WITH EXPERTS

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Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.1,67,96,427/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Seven Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Seven only)** as on **05-11-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **06-11-2025** onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the Bank by the Borrowers / Guarantors **No.1) M/s. Seven Hills Enterprises, No.257, Doddanekundi Village, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560037. No.2) Mr. K. Mohan, S/o. Karuppana Goundar, No.14, 2nd Cross, Chowdaiah Block, Sivan Chetty Gardens, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560042. No.3) Mrs. Tamilarasi, W/o. K. Mohan, No.14, 2nd Cross, Chowdaiah Block, Sivan Chetty Gardens, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560042. No.4) Mr. Kaveen Kumar, S/o. K. Mohan, No.14, 2nd Cross, Chowdaiah Block, Sivan Chetty Gardens, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560042. No.5) Mr. Surya, S/o. K. Mohan, No.14, 2nd Cross, Chowdaiah Block, Sivan Chetty Gardens, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560042. No.6) Mr. S.J. Doraiswamy Reddy, S/o. G. Subramanyam Reddy, No.25, Behind Devegowda Petrol Bunk, Chinnapa Naidu Layout, Banasankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560085. No.7) M/s. Jalsa, No.25/7, Doddanekundi, K.R. Puruam, Bangalore - 560037. Also at : M/S.Jalsa, No. 25, Next to Grand Mall Outer Ring Road, Marathalli, Bangalore - 560 037. No.8) Mrs. Jyothi, W/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore - 26. No.9) Mr. Lokeshwara Reddy, S/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore - 26. No.10) Ms. Rupa, D/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore -26. No.11) Ms. Kavitha, D/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore - 26. No.12) Mr. Dilip Reddy, S/o. Gangadhara Reddy, No.6, Gangajothi Nilayam, Mallige Thotta, Cholur Palya, Bangalore - 26. No.13) Mrs. Vijayakumari, W/o. S.J. Doraiswamy Reddy, No.25, Behind Devegowda Petrol Bunk, Chinnapa Naidu Layout, Banasankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560085.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - C : (Property Owned by Mr. K. Mohan, S/o. Karuppana Goundar)

All that piece and parcel of the RCC Residential Building consist of Ground Floor and 1st Floor Property bearing Gramathana House bearing Site No.6, V.P. Khatha No.78, BBMP Municipal No.14, PID No.96-19-14 situated at Cholanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Presently coming under the BBMP limits measuring East to West 55 feet and North to South 30 feet totally measuring 1,650 square feet and bounded on : East by : Road, West by : Property of Ramakrishna Reddy, North by : Property No.5, South by : Property of Kotaiah.

Reserve Price : Rs.1,87,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Eighty Seven Lakh only)

Schedule - D : (Property Owned by Mr. K. Mohan, S/o. Karuppana Goundar)

All that piece and parcel of the Vacant Plot / Site Property bearing Site No.6, Junjar No.473, Property No.374, formed in Sy. Nos. 40/1, 40/2 and 40/3 situated at Chandapura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, presently coming under the Chandapura Gram panchayat limits, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet and Totally measuring 1,200 Square feet and bounded on: East by : Site No. 5, West by : Site No. 7, North by : 25 feet Road, South by : Site No.11.

Reserve Price : Rs.27,00,000/-
(Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
19-12-2025	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Jaya Nagar Branch, No.126, 33rd Cross, 11th Main, 4th Block, Near A.V.R. Swarna Mahal Signal, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011. Telephone Nos.080-26639771, 080-26639772 Cell Nos. 9343130500, 9341010605, 8925964904.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he /she is bidding for himself /herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Ltd., Bengaluru-Jaya Nagar Branch, No.126, 33rd Cross, 11th Main, 4th Block, Near A.V.R. Swarna Mahal Signal, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011.** **(3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd."**, on or before **12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone Nos.080-26639771, 080-26639772, Cell Nos. 9343130500, 9341010605, 8925964904.** **(5)** The property/ies are sold on "As- is- where- is" , "As-is-what-is" and "whatever there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an open auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15** days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues) TDS,GST if any, due to Government, Government undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 29-11-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar are only looking for ways to push each other into the well, said Union Minister Pralhad Joshi. "Both of them say the high command will decide everything about the CM post and power-sharing. "If that's the case, why did they need to eat half an idli under the pretext of having breakfast?" he said

'INCREASE EDUCATION BUDGET TO SAVE GOVT SCHOOLS'

PIC: VINOD KUMAR T

WHILE there is much debate over shutting down of schools, former education minister and Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar shares his views on what needs to be done to improve the public education infrastructure in the state. In an interaction with TNIE, he also spoke about Bengaluru's infrastructure and how the fight for the CM's post had led to the collapse of administration in the state. Excerpts:

What is the condition of schools in Karnataka?
Unfortunately, the credibility that government schools are supposed to have is missing. If government schools cease to exist, each family will have to spend a minimum of 20 per cent of their income for their children's education. While we give them free uniforms, textbooks, food, we fail to give them quality education and infrastructure. Our education is not child-centric. There are seven representatives from the teaching community and seven from graduate constituencies in the legislative council. Unfortunately, in the councils also, we talk more about teachers' interests than children. The state of government schools in Karnataka is bad. In fact, if the government provides good and free facilities in health and education, people will automatically refuse the five other guarantee schemes.

Do you think the government is focusing more on government schools?
There are about 15,000 government schools where the strength of children is less than 20. I visited a school in Obenahalli in Srinivaspura which had only one student and one teacher. I believe we are stealing the childhood of a student where there is a single child in the school. Therefore, I had proposed the idea of having a full-fledged model school in each gram panchayat. Recently, Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa announced starting model schools which have full-fledged facilities. Unfortunately, many people in the political class itself own or have an interest in private schools. Therefore, the focus on government schools has decreased. On many occasions, I have realised that teachers are also not motivated because they are asked to do census, election work, and purchasing groceries for midday meals.

What changes did you make when you were the education minister?
When I was education minister, I was a wartime general as well. I was given the portfolio in August 2019 and by March 2020, Covid-19 started. It continued till the end of my tenure. In 2020-21, Karnataka was the only state to conduct SSLC exams and it was a great feat.

Do you think the present budget for the education sector needs to be improved?
It's not a question of improvement. Ultimately, around 85 per cent of any education budget goes towards paying salaries. The remaining 15 per cent goes towards structural improvements like building repairs. The present budget should be increased by at least three times. Only good education can produce good citizens. We should not sacrifice long-term effect for short-term gain.

Is reducing the pass cutoff percentage to increase the number of passed students a good move?
Even private institutions have welcomed the move to lower the cutoff percentage from 35% to 33%. But it's not a healthy way to see the overall development of a child. I know that marks are not the be-all and end-all; the need of the hour is to assure quality education, to make children enjoy learning. Nobody thinks about that, unfortunately. I think the government should revisit this issue.

How are portfolios allocated for the education department?
There are no criteria or benchmarks to allocate portfolios. Unfortunately, many other criteria come into play. Education is treated like any other department, like fisheries or animal husbandry. But education needs more attention and care. We hear about Finnish education; supposed to be the best in the world. But we have not implemented any learning from it here.

The prescribed syllabus keeps changing, depending on the ruling party at any given time. How does this affect the development of a child?
The syllabus is decided on ideological grounds. The child's interest is the last priority. Children should not become footballs (at the behest of ideological shifts). The National Education Policy (NEP) has come into being; it was not prepared like instant coffee, but was formulated after a lot of considerations and deliberations. Now, our state government in 2021 accepted NEP; but after the present government came to power, they rejected the NEP in favour of a State Education Policy (SEP). I'm at a loss as to which of the two is being followed in the state. There are many CBSE schools in Karnataka, all of which follow the NEP. So by rejecting NEP without any reason except that it belongs to the Union government, we are denying our children quality education.

Why do you prefer the NEP?
Amongst many positives, the NEP includes skill-based training from Grade 9.

What do you think about schools in the state being merged?
Instead of having a school with just one or two students, or having a school where one teacher has to simultaneously teach more than one class – which is a reality in many cases – it is better to merge. There is also a lack of teachers. When you have disparate resources, it is better to mobilise and create quality schools. All that's left is to provide transport, which assures that students continue to receive education. Students should study together and grow as part of collectives, not individually.

Why are over 60,000 teacher posts vacant, and how do the Finance department and guest teacher system affect this?
Vacancies persist as teacher recruitment files often get stuck in the Finance department, causing delays and refusals. Court cases further stall the process, and some of the 15,000 teachers recruited three years ago still haven't received appointment orders. Reliance on underpaid guest teachers has become a chronic issue, turning a temporary fix into an annual cycle.

EXPRESS Dialogues

How would you respond to Madhu Bangarappa and the Finance department saying there's no money, but they're stretching limits for quality education?
Claiming 'no money' is easy, but funds could be redirected from other departments if education were truly a priority. The issue isn't resources, it's the mindset to prioritize this vital sector for society's future.

How can Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) help government schools?
CSR funds can support school infrastructure, teaching materials, gadgets and activities. During the 2019 floods, private institutions helped schools significantly. For CSR to be effective, companies must trust their contributions are used well, making it a reliable way to improve education quality.

Why are parents shifting to private schools even if they can't afford them?
Parents believe private schools offer better English skills and learning outcomes. This perception persists even among low-income families, leading them to prefer private schools over government schools. However, during Covid-19, admissions to government schools rose by 4.5-5 lakh students because parents couldn't afford private school fees. After schools reopened, many students returned to private schools due to problems like lack of toilets, shortage of teachers, and poor infrastructure in government schools.

What is your stance on English-medium education?
English should be taught as a spoken language from Class 1 to build communication skills. While learning in the mother tongue aids understanding, early English education is essential. English-medium schools are not wrong, and parents should have the choice, but the gradual decline of Kannada, even at home, must be addressed carefully.

Could one of the government's guarantees focus on education?
The next budget should guarantee two things: free quality education up to Class 10/ Plus Two and reliable free medical care. While Ayushman cards exist, real treatment must be ensured — benefiting families and showing the state's commitment.

How serious is bullying and violence in schools, and should there be an anti-bullying mechanism?
Student safety and bullying are growing concerns. During Covid-19, increased online teaching exposed children to excessive screen time and inappropriate content. The average screen time of children in our country is 4 to 5 hours. Premature information about nonsensical things is affecting children's minds. Though Nimhans experts suggested screen-time guidelines, they are largely ignored. Ensuring safe learning environments and proper guidance must remain a priority.

Often we are seeing issues such as hijab and janivara (sacred thread) in educational institutions. How does it affect the education system?
Non-issues are becoming major debates, while real issues are not being addressed. Instead of fostering natural, organic growth, we impose ideology on students. Such inorganic interference harms society and deeply affects young minds.

What are your thoughts on splitting BBMP and creating Greater Bengaluru Authority?
I was born and brought up in Bengaluru. I heard about the municipality in 1966 when my party contested. In 1983, I became a corporator of Bangalore City Corporation. I had been advocating decentralisation of power in corporations. During my tenure as corporator, only three IAS officers were there. A Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner For Development and Deputy Commissioner For Administration. They were managing the city really well then. Today, the government has come up with GBA. The basis of dividing the city corporation is not scientific. Equal development cannot be possible. Five commissioners are yet to understand their boundaries and total revenue generation, salaries for staff. The division is politically motivated and is not a citizen-centric devolution of power. There is no answer for potholes, garbage and pollution. Citizens will have to pay for these vital mistakes by the government.

What is your take on tunnel road?
Bengaluru's traffic is a major issue. Earlier, the government came up with a steel bridge costing Rs 1,800 crore, but after protests, the project was dropped. Now they are coming up with a fantastic idea of a tunnel road. We are not against the tunnel project per se, but some fundamental questions were raised by our MPs. The government has not done any study. Doubts were raised over the DPR prepared by a blacklisted firm. Who will benefit from the tunnel road as autos, two-wheelers are banned. Only around 4,000 cars can travel on the stretch. If we invest in Metro and other mass transport, the passenger carrying capacity will be doubled. Except Singapore, no other city in the world has a toll in its limits. Besides, Rs 600 per vehicle to and fro is expensive. The need of the hour is mass transport.

Why is the government pushing hard for such a project?
It appears that DK Shivakumar wants to leave his footprint in Bengaluru city. Kengal Hanumantaiah came out with Vidhana Soudha, Gundu Rao with Majestic Bus Stand, and SM Krishna with Vikasa Soudha. I think someone must have advised Shivakumar about the tunnel road. Instead of pushing hard, he should have shown the courtesy to say that before going ahead, all aspects will be taken into consideration. They say the tunnel will go below Sankey Tank, will the tank exist? The project will go below Lal Bagh, can we afford to lose 3000 million year old rock? Instead of taking everyone into confidence, he is making rude comments, which is not expected from a person in power. In 2001, when BWSSB privatisation was proposed, the then CM SM Krishna listened to the concerns I raised, recognised public interest and dropped the plan, which is a true act of statesmanship. Shivakumar, who cites Krishna as his role model, should follow that example. The tunnel road project must be revisited, reinvestigated, and alternative solutions explored.

With traffic worsening and Metro progress slow, what do you believe is the real solution to manage Bengaluru's congestion?
The suburban railway project is not getting the attention it deserves. If completed, it can ease traffic, especially on the city's outskirts. Within the city, BMTC and Metro must work together to improve last-mile connectivity and offer smoother public transport options.

The city has not seen local body election for five years. How is it affecting administration?
Grassroots leadership is impossible without civic elections, yet they've been delayed for five years. Without corporators, citizens are forced to approach MLAs and MPs for basic issues, from garbage to potholes, because departments fail to do their job. This vacuum has worsened services and weakened accountability.

How do you look at the present political situation in Karnataka, is it impacting the administration or is it just an internal Congress issue?
Administration in Karnataka has come to a standstill. Bureaucrats are hesitant to take decisions, and ministers themselves are unsure, wondering what will happen to them. This is dangerous. If there is a two-and-a-half-year power-sharing agreement, the leadership must state it openly. Decisions made by a handful in closed rooms cannot guide a whole state. The Congress high command, weakened after the Bihar elections, must end this uncertainty. Without clarity, governance suffers while the public watches the political drama that benefits no one.

What is your response to the claim that BJP is currently not a strong or effective opposition in Karnataka?
Many say the BJP is not a strong opposition or that there is "adjustment politics", but I disagree. A strong opposition is one that raises issues firmly, and we have done that. We protested against the MUDA scam, farmers' issues, highlighted potholes in Bengaluru and others. Instead of having the basic courtesy to listen to the opposition, if the ruling government is thick-skinned and shows arrogance in its administration, no matter how strong the opposition, it can't do much.

Can you share your passion for cycling?
Cycle has been my companion for a long time. From riding bicycles on rent to getting a bicycle gifted by my mother for securing first class in SSLC, the cycle remained my companion. Even after I became an advocate, I used to go around on my cycle. In 1974, I went to Kanyakumari on a bicycle for four days with my friends. I also became an avid walker. Both are a form of meditation. I was affected by the rarest of rare form of chikungunya, where my brain was affected and I was bedridden for five months. My doctors say cycling helped me to recover.

BJP leaders to stay in villages during Winter Session

Belagavi: The state BJP leadership will launch a district-wide 'village visit and stay' campaign coinciding with the Winter Session of the legislature, to corner the Congress government over the power-sharing tussle and "administrative failures". The Winter Session will be held from December 8 to 19 at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi. BJP MLAs led Leader of Opposition R Ashoka and state BJP president B Y Vijayendra will tour villages and interact with residents, assess local problems firsthand and raise a unified voice against what they describe as the government's inefficiency. The party's strategy builds on recent momentum, especially the widespread support received during the sugarcane farmers' protest n Mudalgi taluk, where Vijayendra stayed overnight with the agitating farmers. Encouraged by the response, BJP leaders have reportedly discussed spending at least five days in select villages during the session. The detailed schedule and execution plan will be finalised in the BJP meeting on December 5. **ENS**

LEADERSHIP ROW

Day after 'truce' with Siddu, DKS says he knows his limits as KPCC president

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A day after signalling a truce with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the leadership tussle, DCM D K Shivakumar stressed that there are no differences between them and he knows his limits.

"There is no difference between me and the CM. Being the party president, I know my limits. Nowhere have I made any comments or expressed a difference of opinion with the CM. We are all working together. There are a lot of aspirations of the people of Karnataka, and we are committed to working for them. Our aim is 2028 and 2029. The CM and I will work out a strategy," he told reporters here on Sunday.

Shivakumar declined to divulge what transpired between him and AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal when the latter called him over phone and advised him to have a breakfast meeting with Siddaramaiah. "I have discussed with everyone (high command leaders, including Venugopal). I won't discuss what transpired in the meeting," he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar at the Arebhashe Academy Awards at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Stating that he never indulged in factional politics, the DCM said, "As you would have noticed, I go to Delhi alone. I can take 8-10 MLAs with me, but I don't do it. I have to take everyone along with me as KPCC president. All 140 MLAs are our leaders. Even as part of the HD Kumaraswamy government, I was sincere. Kumaraswamy's father, former PM HD Deve Gowda, knows how much effort I put in to save his son's government. My brand of politics is direct, I don't backstab."

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy was Karnataka chief minister in 2018 in the Congress-JDS coalition government.

Asked if he was travelling to Delhi for political discussions, he said, "The CM and I discussed maize and sugarcane issues and we need to discuss it with the state's MPs. I believe we should call an all-party meeting in Delhi. Need to see the view of the CM. All ministers from the state also need to be there."

On RDPR and IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge meeting his father, AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge, in Delhi on Saturday, Shivakumar hit back, "Does a son need to apply for a meeting with his father? You are reading too much into everything. It isn't politics when a father and son meet."

On some Vokkaliga seers supporting him, Shivakumar said, "Kumaranna doesn't even know how the Vokkaliga mutt came into being. Who built it? Would Deve Gowda have become the CM if not for the Vokkaliga seers. Did the seers keep quiet when injustice was meted out to (BJP leader) Sadananda Gowda? The seers speak on certain occasions, there is nothing wrong in it."

Kumaraswamy had opposed the seers' intervention and taunted Shivakumar for not seeking their support. "Did I ask for their support? I haven't asked for anyone's support. If they support you out of affection, can you say no? Though I was born in a particular community, I like and respect all communities. Many other seers, including Balehonnur seer and Sri Saila seer have supported me. Jain seers have blessed me too. I got support when I went to Dharmasthala too. We can't say it is wrong," Shivakumar said.

Cong brass takes time off from K'taka imbroglio

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

THE Congress high command, which managed to get Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to sit for a breakfast meeting on Saturday and project a united front seems to have taken a break from deciding on changing the chief minister or allowing a cabinet expansion, both fraught with large political consequences in the state.

The Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) meeting in Delhi on Sunday that was chaired by senior leader Sonia Gandhi and attended by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal, communication in-charge Jairam Ramesh among others did not take up issues concerning the state. It only focused on issues to be taken up during the winter session of Parliament which is starting Monday.

This could mean that the high command may not summon Siddaramaiah or Shivakumar anytime soon to Delhi to discuss the power transfer issue. The top leadership could consider it only after the Parliament session and state legislature session, which concludes on December 19. Siddaramaiah's sympathisers, including former minister KN Rajanna, said the high command will definitely approve a cabinet reshuffle which could happen in January 2026 ahead of the Karnataka budget session.

"Shivakumar has got more than he deserves, but he is a good organiser. I wish him to be CM in future, but not in this five-year term of Congress. Siddaramaiah is a good administrator and a crowd puller. Without BS Yediyurappa, HD Deve Gowda family and Siddaramaiah, BJP, JDS and Congress just do not exist," he commented.

But Shivakumar's sympathisers believe the high command will decide on the change in leadership after Siddaramaiah breaks the record of late Devaraj Urs, who holds the distinction of being the longest serving chief minister at seven years and 238 days. Siddaramaiah will cross the mark in January 2026. "If not in January, the CM will be changed in May 2026 after Siddaramaiah completes three years in office," a Congress MLA from the Shivakumar camp said. Some Kharge sympathisers echoed a similar feeling.

An engineering student ended her life by jumping into Bhishmakere Lake in Gadag on Saturday night. The deceased has been identified as Chandrika Naduvinamani (21). Chandrika was from Shirur in Bagalkot and was scheduled to complete her engineering course next year. She was staying in a rented room

TIGER CENSUS TO START IN JANUARY

Training for Bengaluru circle done; Central govt aiming to release report by April 2026

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

AMID increasing incidents of man-animal conflict, particularly tiger capture and relocation operations around prime tiger reserves, the Karnataka forest department is training its staffers for the upcoming all-India tiger census.

"The tiger estimation exercise will be done in the first week of January. The dates are yet to be finalised. The exercise will first be done in Project Tiger areas and then in other forest patches. Training for Bengaluru Circle has been completed," Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, PC Rai told TNIE.

Under Phase-1, data on carnivore and prey base density will be obtained. Phase-2 will comprise field reports, and Phase-3 will be the camera trap data. The Centre is targeting the release of the all-India estimation report in April 2026.

The synchronised all-India estimation will be done in 2026. Karnataka was to start its annual tiger estimation exercise by the end of November, and complete it by mid-December. An official from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change said, "Due to multiple reasons, including improper training for all staff, it was postponed. All tiger states have been directed to follow one calendar for the estimation, to avoid confusion and duplication in the Monitoring Systems for Tigers – Intensive Protection and Ecological Status (M-Str-IPES) portal and mobile app."

The 'Status of Tigers, Prey and Other Mammals, in Tiger Reserves of Karnataka for 2024' report, released by the Karnataka forest department tiger cell on March 28, 2025, showed a decline in tiger numbers, compared to previous years. In 2020, Karnataka's five tiger reserves housed 403 tigers, which increased to 417 in 2022, dipped to 408 in 2023 and 393 in 2024.

The all-India tiger estimation report, prepared by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India, showed a rise in the number of striped wild cats in Karnataka, year-on-year. In 2010, the state recorded 300. This increased to 406 in 2014, 524 in 2018 and 563 in 2022. Karnataka ranks second in the all-India estimation exercise after Madhya Pradesh, with 785 tigers.

The all-India estimation also showed that the Central and Eastern Ghats landscape housed 1,439 tigers, while the Western Ghats landscape housed 1,087 big cats.

"We don't want to compete, but looking at the rising cases of conflict and number of new births, it seems like the number in Karnataka is on the rise. It is also unfortunate that many wild cats have been captured and relocated to rescue centres. Forest cover is shrinking, and the pressure on forest land is rising. Bandipur and Nagarahole tiger reserves house tigers beyond their carrying capacity, thus conflict is increasing. We have now adopted relocation to newer, safer habitats policy," said a senior official.

The rescued tiger cubs at the Koorgalli rehabilitation centre in Mysuru on Sunday. Foresters rescued the cubs from Gowdanakatte village in Hunsur taluk in Mysuru earlier in the day | EXPRESS

4 TIGER CUBS RESCUED IN HUNSUR

Mysuru: Forest officials and veterinarians successfully rescued four tiger cubs from Gowdanakatte village in Hunsur taluk, which lies adjacent to the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve on Sunday. The cubs were located after an intensive three-day operation that began when their mother, a tigress that had strayed close to human settlements, was captured earlier. After being safely secured, the four cubs were reunited with their mother, and the entire tiger family has now been shifted to the Koorgalli rehabilitation centre in Mysuru for further monitoring and care. Deputy Conservator of Forests Seema, DCF Prabhu Goud, DCF Fayaz, DCF Paramesh, ACF Lakshmikanth, ACF Mahadevaiah, range forest officers Nandakumar and Vinod Gowda, and others played crucial roles throughout the mission. The combing and capture efforts were led by veterinarian Dr Vaseem Mirza, who guided the team through the complex task of locating and securing the four cubs without causing them stress or harm.

A 3-PHASE DRIVE

The exercise will first be done in the Project Tiger areas

Phase-1: Carnivore & prey base density data will be obtained

Phase 2 will comprise field reports, and Phase 3 will be the camera trap data.

In 2020, Karnataka's five tiger reserves housed 403, which increased to 417 in 2022 and dipped to 408 in 2023 and to 393 in 2024.

INDIGO, AI EXPRESS COMPLETE A320 EMERGENCY UPDATE

ANUBHAB ROY @Bengaluru

IN the wake of an emergency update issued worldwide by aircraft-manufacturer Airbus regarding its A320 fleet, airlines around the world scrambled to update their fleets, causing delays and cancellations. As of 4.30 pm on Saturday, at least one cancelled flight and five delayed departures at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) could be attributed to this, according to a source from Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL). Meanwhile, a BIAL spokesperson said as of 3 pm on Sunday, four A320 flights were cancelled and nine A320 flights were delayed, but "not because of system updates, but (other) operational reasons."

The update was issued following an incident of sudden descent faced by an A320 aircraft. According to the Airbus website, "Analysis of a recent event involving an A320 family aircraft has revealed that intense solar radiation may corrupt data critical to the functioning of flight controls. Airbus has worked proactively with the aviation authorities to request immediate precautionary action from operators via an alert operators transmission (AOT) to implement the available software and/or hardware protection, and ensure the fleet is safe to fly."

Following this, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) mandated that all A320s currently operating in India be patched with the update.

The A320 family of aircraft, an analogue to the Boeing 737 family, is a reliable fleet used across the world primarily in domestic passenger hauls. IndiGo is the largest operator of the aircraft in India, with 200 of them in service currently, followed by Air India and Air India Express. The single cancellation at KIA on Saturday was of an Air India Express A320 flight.

On Saturday night, IndiGo reported that it had completed the necessary update on its entire A320 fleet. "We are pleased to share a completion update on the mandatory Airbus system enhancement across our A320-family fleet. All 200 aircraft have now been fully updated and compliant as required. With the completion of this technical requirement, every aircraft now operates with the latest approved configuration, and we continue to monitor performance closely as part of our routine safety procedures," a statement read. Air India Express completed the update across its fleet on Sunday.

At the time of writing, around 90% of the Air India A320 fleet has been patched with the update.

AI complicates crime, throws up legal challenges, says CJ

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

"WE are living in times where technology is changing faster than our ability to regulate it. The rise of AI has added a new layer of complexity to cyber crimes, whether in the form of deep fake videos, identity manipulation, or automated attacks that happen without human control. Among various challenges faced by judges and advocates, investigative machinery and jurisdictional issues make it a formidable challenge to take the prosecution to a logical conclusion," said Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru.

He was speaking at Lahari Chengappa Memorial Lecture (a tribute to late PGC Chengappa, the first president of the Lahari Advocates Forum), organised at the Karnataka High Court.

"Courts today have been called upon to deal with entirely new forms of digital injury, and these challenges demand that both the Bench and the Bar adapt," the Chief Justice added. He also commented that younger lawyers have a tremendous opportunity as cyber crime and digital evidence are emerging fields, and those who equip themselves with technical knowledge will not only enrich their practice but also play a vital role in shaping legal responses to technology-driven offences.

EXPRESS READ

28-year-old technician killed in road accident near Chalvenhatti

Belagavi: A 28-year-old X-ray technician lost his life in a road accident near Chalvenhatti in Belagavi taluk on Saturday. The victim, Shivaji Anand Rajai, hailed from Chalvenhatti and was a resident of Kitwad. A pickup van heading from Belagavitowards Chalvenhatti rammed into Rajai's two-wheeler. The collision left Rajai critically injured. Passersby and local residents immediately rushed to help and shifted him to a private hospital in Belagavi. Despite prompt medical attention and intensive efforts by doctors, Rajai succumbed to his injuries shortly after being admitted. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway. **ENS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the general public that my client i.e., **Syed Qualeelulla Quadri @ Syed Khaleel Pasha** is the absolute owner and in possession in respect of property No.401/BDA, 1st Stage, 3rd Block, HBR Layout, Ward No.29, Bangalore. East by : Site No.400, West by : Site No.402, North by : Road and South by : Site No.409. My client has lost below mentioned Documents. i.e., **1)** Reg Sale deed dated 18/12/2000, Doc No.2488/2000-2001 of Book-1, Volume No.49, **2)** Reg GPA of Gopal Swamy dated 16/11/1987 vide order No.B15/HBR-III/5M401/87-88, **3)** Reg Lease cum Sale agreement, Doc No.2488 of 2000-01 of Book-I, Volume No.49 before the Sub-Registrar Urban District Bangalore. **4)** Possession certificate of M.R.G Rao dated 8/1/1992, its vide order No.PCR No.134/91-92, **5)** Possession certificate from BDA No.7005/98-99, **6)** Allotment letter from BDA, **7)** Family Tree of M.R.G Rao, **8)** Transfer agreement dated 30/12/1998 Reg as Doc No.7005/98-99, **9)** Lease agreement dated 16/8/1991 registered as agreement 5011/91-92, **10)** Death certificate of M.R.G Rao and other relevant Documents.

In the event any person/persons/authority having the above said original Documents, kindly handover the same to the below mentioned address within 7 days of the publication of this notice. The general public are informed not to act on the basis of the said original Documents.

Syed Aslam, Advocate,
Narayana Pillai Street,
Near Commercial Street, Bangalore-560051.
Mob :9177453796

PUBLIC NOTICE

CANCELLATION OF AGREEMENT

1. DATED 18.08.2018 REGISTERED ON 21.08.2018 vide document no. SRJ-1-02215- 2018-19, CD No. SRJD262, book 1 registered before the sub-registrar Sarjapur, Anekal Taluk

2. Dated 21.08.2018 under vide document no. SRJ-1-02224-2018-19, CD No. SRJD262, book 1 registered before the sub-registrar Sarjapur, Anekal Taluk

3. Dated 21.08.2018 under vide document no. SRJ-1-02218-2018-19, CD No. SRJD262, book 1 registered before the sub-registrar Sarjapur, Anekal Taluk

Whereas our client Sri.B.C.Mariyappa, S/o. Late Chikkanna, R/at. Bhootanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bannerghatta Post, Bangalore 560083 entered into an agreement in favor of the following persons: 1. Mr. Louis Paul Kern, S/o. Late Thavamani @ Kuppuswamy, 2. Mr. Benjamin Kern, S/o. Rev. Louis Paul Kern, 3. Ms. Dorothee Kern, D/o. Rev. Louis Paul Kern, 4. Ms. Jeannette Kern, D/o. Rev. Louis Paul Kern, All 1 to 4 R/a. Peniel Garden, Bethamangala Road, Near H.P.Nagar, BEML Nagar Post, Kolar Gold Field -563115.

IN RESPECT OF SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

1. Sy. no. 29, situated at Bhootanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bannerghatta Post, Bangalore 560083 and formed layout approved by the Bannerghatta Village Panchayat, Anekal Taluk, accordingly the layout consists of 24 sites having the dimension of 30' x 40' totally measuring 28,800 Sft.

2. Bearing Nos. 1 to 70, property No. 29/1 and 53, Form 9 & 11, Katha No. 29/1 & 53, situated at Bhootanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bannerghatta Post, Bangalore 560083 and formed layout approved by the Bannerghatta Village Panchayat, Anekal Taluk, accordingly the layout consists of 70 sites having the dimension of 30' x 40' totally measuring 84,000 Sft.

3. Bearing Nos. 1 to 90, property No. 47/2 and 48, Form 9 & 11, Katha No. 29, situated at Bhootanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bannerghatta Post, Bangalore-560083 and formed layout approved by the Bannerghatta Village Panchayat, Anekal Taluk, accordingly the layout consists of 90 sites having the dimension of 30' X 40' totally measuring 84,000 Sft in all totally for 90 sites East to west 720 feet and North to South 150 feet in all totally measuring 1,08,000 Sft.

However the Agreement executed registered on 21.08.2018 by B.C.Mariyappa has been terminated/Revoked through legal notice dated 04.10.2025. Anybody acting or transacting with the above person on the revoked agreement acting on their own risk & consequences.

This public notice is published for the awareness of the General Public.

K.P. POOVANNA, Advocate
M/s. GLOBAL SURGE LAWS,
No.1304, 9th Cross, 24th Main, J.P. Nagar,
1st Phase, Bangalore 560078
PH: 9845342833

BEFORE THE VI ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, AT BENGALURU
O.S. No. 2737/2025 (CCH-11)

BETWEEN: Mrs. Maanasa Supreeth, Wife of Supreeth Jayasimhan, aged about 42 years, Residing at A-2001, Ashok Gardens, T.J. Road, Sewari, Mumbai - 400 015. Represented by her GPA Holder Sri V. Ramakrupa ... **PLAINTIFF**

AND: Siraj Ismail ... **DEFENDANT**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 (1) AND (1-A) OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908

To, **Mr. Siraj Ismail**, Permanently residing at Shree Vinayaka Krupa, 1st Floor, Lakshmi Talkies Road, 5th E Cross, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru-560 016. Currently residing at: Flat No. 42001, Nikoo Homes -1, Bhartiya City, Thanisandra Main Road, Bengaluru-560 064

WHEREAS the above-named Plaintiff has instituted a suit for ejectment and arrears of rent seeking directions against you to quit, vacate and handover vacant possession the Schedule Property and pay arrears of Rent and Maintenance charges from April 2024 to March 2025 to the Plaintiff and to pay the rent from the date of filing of the present suit till the date of realization and for future rents. You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by an Advocate on **19/01/2026** at **11:00 A.M.** to defend yourself, in default of your appearance on the day mentioned above, the Suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of Residential Apartment bearing No. 42001, on the Twentieth Floor, Tower-4, Wing D, Nikoo-1, Bhartiya City, having Khata No. 6/2/2311, situated at Thanisandra Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 064 consisting of 2.5 Bedroom Hall Kitchen along with fixtures measuring 1272 Sq. ft., bounded on: **East by:** Staircase in Twentieth Floor in Tower 4, Wing D of Nikoo Homes, **West by:** Lift Lobby in Tower 4, Wing D of Nikoo Homes, **North by:** Corridor and Duct in Tower 4, Wing D of Nikoo Homes, **South by:** Open towards open space in Tower 4, Wing D of Nikoo Homes

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 26/11/2025

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

IN THE COURT OF THE SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU
O.S. No. 1527/2021

BETWEEN: Smt. Gulnaz Begum, Wife of Mohammed Nasiruddin, aged about 60 years, Residing at No.31, Kenchappa Garden, Chamundi Nagar Main road, RT Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560032... **PLAINTIFF**

AND: Sri.R. Dhananjaya, and others... **DEFENDANTS**

SUMMONS/NOTICES TO DEFENDANTS NO. 3, 4 AND 6

1. Sri. Ramanjinappa .R, S/o late Ramadasappa, aged about 42 years... **DEFENDANT No.3**

2. Smt. Varalakshmi .R, D/o late Ramadasappa, aged about 37 years... **DEFENDANT No.4.**

3. Ramakishor.R, S/o late Ramadasappa, aged about 33 years ... **DEFENDANT No.6**

Defendants No.3, 4 and 6 Are residing at 197, Nelagadaranahalli, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560073.

Whereas the plaintiffs have filed the above suit against the defendants for declaration, possession and other reliefs against the Defendants in respect of schedule property mentioned in the schedule. So the Defendants No.3, 4 and 6 are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court, either in persons or through the pleaders on the **12-12-2025** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer the same failing which the matter will be heard ex-parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential property Western Portion of Vacant site No.14, khatha No.89, formed Assessment No.99, situated at Karihobanahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, presently within the jurisdiction of BBMP, measuring east to west 22.6 feet and north to south 30 feet in all measuring 678 sq feet, comes within the limits of BBMP, and bounded on the: **East by:** Remaining portion of the same No.14 (belongs to Smt.Gangamma), **West by:** Private property, **North by:** Private property, **South by:** Road.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 21-11-2025.

By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Senior Civil Judge Court, Bengaluru Rural Dist, Bengaluru

MEENAKSHI .M, Advocate
No. 56, Bharathi Nagar, H. M. Halli Post, Bengaluru-561267.

PRATHAMIKA KRUSHI PATTINA SAHAKARA SANGHA

Daginakatte, Channagiri Taluk, Davangere District.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Prathamika Krushi Pattina Sahakar Sangha Niyamita invites Tender for the construction of a Godown building at Daginakatte. Interested contractors requested to submit their tenders through online. Tender submission Date: 29-11-2025 to 08-12-2025 at 4.00 pm. Tender estimated amount is Rs. 92,90,000-00. E.M.D. amount is fixed at Rs. 1,85,000. For more information visit website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

Further details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned officers during working hours.

Sd/- **Chief Executive Officer**
Prathamika Krushi Pattina Sahakara Sangha, Daginakatte,
Channagiri Taluk, Davangere Dist. Phone : 8748966734

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of India Enterprise - Navratna)
CIN : L74899DL1999GOI101707

IRCTC Invites bids for following:-

1. Open E-Tender No. 2026/IRCTC/Catg./JAN AAHAAR-PTKC/JAN/2026 cum e-auction bid document for provision of catering services in Jan Aahaar, PTKC (A) = 48.45 sqm for a period of 5 years. Last date of submission: **01.01.2026** till **15:00 hrs.**

2. Open E-Tender No. 2025/IRCTC/CO/SER/TAG 2026 for Selection of Vendor for Printing & Transportation of Trains at a Glance–2026 Magazine. Last date of submission: **08.12.2025** up to **15:00 hrs.**

3. Tender No. IRCTC/CO/PRO(PR)/97/2020/PnT/CO for Engagement of Digital Marketing Agency for IRCTC. Pre-bid meeting (VC): **16.12.2025** at **15:00 hrs.** Last date of submission: **23.12.2025** up to **15:00 hrs.**

4. Open E-Tender for miscellaneous civil, repairing works at Rail Neer Plant, Nangloi, Delhi. Last date of submission: **22.12.2025** up to **15:00 hrs.**

For details visit **www.irctc.com** and **www.tenderwizard.com.** Document downloading and participation can only be done on **www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC.**

Corrigendum/addendum if any, will be published only on **www.irctc.com** and **www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC.**

IRCTC Ltd., 4th Floor, Tower-D, World trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029

KARNATAKA SLUM DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1 Division, Mysuru.
Near Highway Circle, Java Factory Road, Mysuru-570001.
Ph.: 0821-2332325, E-mail: kscb_mys@yahoo.com

No: KSDB/EE/Mys-Div-1/IFT-02/AE/2025-26 Date: 29.11.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-2)
(E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

On behalf of the Commissioner, KSDB, Bengaluru, The Executive Engineer, No. 1 Division, Mysore invites tender from eligible Tenderers for Providing RCC Drain, Cement Concrete Road, UGD & Water Supply at Gandhinagara, Sideeshwaranagara (A D Colony) Slum in Holenarsipura Town in Holenarsipura Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency in Hassan District. Tender notification, schedule, specification are available in the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

1	Date & Time for Pre Bid Meeting	03.12.2025 at 11.00 hours
2	Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications	05.12.2025 Up to 16.00 hours
3	Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders	08.12.2025 Up to 11.00 hours
4	Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid	10.12.2025 at 11.00 hours
5	Date & Time for Opening Financial Bid	15.12.2025 at 11.00 hours

DIPR/CP/4103/SSC/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KSDB, No.1 Division, Mysore

HDFC BANK

We understand your world

HDFC Bank Ltd,. Ground Floor, Rashtrothana Bhavan, Muncipal No. 3/1, Ward No 77, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore - 560001, Ph: 080-68906205

ANNEXURE—VI (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Possession Notice

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the HDFC Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated **06-08-2025** calling upon the borrowers – **1) Mr. Yaraiah Garahalli Ramakrishna R Rameshreddy, 2) Yaraiah Garahalli Ramakrishna R Rameshreddy** and **3) Shashivarun Reddy Y R** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.4,80,21,565/- (Rupees Four Crore Eighty Lakh Twenty One Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Five Only)** along with interest, penal interest, costs etc. within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrowers, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section 4 of section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **27th Day of November, 2025.**

The borrower, in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the HDFC Bank Ltd, for an amount of **Rs. 4,80,21,565/- (Rupees Four Crore Eighty Lakh Twenty One Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Five Only)** along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc., from 06-08-2025.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Schedule : Description of the Secured Assets

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No. 291/A, New Municipal No. 53/01, Situated at Block No. IV, Jayanagar Extension, Now known as 34th Cross Road, 4th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore , comes under the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No. 60, with the unique Property ID , PID No. 60-120-53/01, Bangalore, together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface Bangalore, measuring East to West 50 Ft , North to South 75Ft , measuring 3750 Sq. Ft. Bounded By: East By : Site No. 291, West By : Site No. 292/A, North By : Road , South By : Site No. 290/4 & 290/5.

Date: 27.11.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
For HDFC BANK Ltd.,

Regd.Office : HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
(ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ದತ್ತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ)

ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀಕಂಠೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ದೇವಾಲಯ, ನಂಜನಗೂಡು
ಚಿಕ್ಕಜಾತ್ರಾ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ – 2025

ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀಕಂಠೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದೇವಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ 2025ರ ಶ್ರೀ ಚಿಕ್ಕಜಾತ್ರಾ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವದ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ಜರುಗುವ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು:

1	ದಿ: 01–12–2025 ಸೋಮವಾರ	ಸಂಜೆ: 7.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	"ಶ್ರೀ ಕಂಠಮುಡಿ ಉತ್ಸವ"
2	ದಿ: 04–12–2025 ಗುರುವಾರ	ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ: 09.00 ರಿಂದ 9.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ	"ಶ್ರೀ ಮನ್ಮಹಾರಥಾರೋಹಣ"
3	ದಿ: 06–12–2025 ಶನಿವಾರ	ಸಂಜೆ: 7.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	"ಕಪಿಲಾ ನದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಪ್ಪೋತ್ಸವ"

ಚಿಕ್ಕಜಾತ್ರಾ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವಂಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀವು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಪುತ್ರ, ಮಿತ್ರ, ಕಳತ್ರ ಬಂಧು ಜನ ಸಮೇತರಾಗಿ ಬಂದು ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀಯವರ ಸೇವೆಯಂ ಮಾಡಿ ಕೃತಾರ್ಥರಾಗಲು ವಿನಂತಿಸುತ್ತೇವೆ.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಮನವಿ: ದೇವಾಲಯದ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರತಿ ದಿನ ನಡೆಸಲ್ಪಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅನ್ನದಾಸೋಹಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇವಾರ್ಥ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ದವಸ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೇ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನಗದು ಕಾಣಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಕೃತಜ್ಞತಾ ಪೂರ್ವಕವಾಗಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಜೆ. ನಾಗಚಂದ್ರ ದೀಕ್ಷಿತ್, ಆಗಮಿಕರು,
ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀಕಂಠೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದೇವಾಲಯ, ನಂಜನಗೂಡು.

ಜಗದೀಶ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಎಂ.
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀಕಂಠೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದೇವಾಲಯ,
ನಂಜನಗೂಡು:

ಡಾ. ಪಿ. ಶಿವರಾಜು (ಸೂಪರ್ ಟೈಂ ಸ್ಕೇಲ್) ಕ.ಆ.ಸೇ.
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕರಿ ಹಾಗೂ
ಅಪರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಮೈಸೂರು

ಜಿ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀಕಾಂತರೆಡ್ಡಿ ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ.
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಶರತ್ ಬಿ. ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ
ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಹಿಂದೂ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು
ಧರ್ಮದಾಯ ದತ್ತಿಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following Works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Sl. No.	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	(Quality Assurance)	BWSSB/EQATE/PB/1060/2025-26 Dated: 28-11-2025	1	Rs. 51,20,400/- / Rs. 1,02,500/-	08-12-2025 Upto 5.30 PM	10-12-2025 at 12.00 PM
		BWSSB/EQATE/PB/1062/2025-26 Dated: 28-11-2025	2	Rs. 80,06,195/- / Rs. 1,60,200/-		
		BWSSB/EQATE/PB/1064/2025-26 Dated: 28-11-2025	3	Rs. 60,24,000/- / Rs. 1,20,500/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Quality Assurance)

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

2	(South-2)	BWSSB/EES2/TO/PB/1708/2025-26 Dated: 21-11-2025	1	Rs. 54,02,857/- / Rs. 1,08,100/-	09-12-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	10-12-2025 After 4.00 PM
		BWSSB/EES2/PB/1706/2025-26 Dated: 21-11-2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	2	Rs. 43,90,754/- / Rs. 44,000/-	09-12-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	10-12-2025 After 4.30 PM
		BWSSB/EES2/TO/PB/1710/2025-26 Dated: 21-11-2025 (Reserved for 2A Category)	3	Rs. 77,82,384/- / Rs. 77,900/-	09-12-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	10-12-2025 After 4.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

3	(WWM-STP) CV-2	BWSSB/EE(WWM)CV-2/PB/335/2025-26 Dated: 27-11-2025 (Call-2)	1	Rs. 82,29,370/- / Rs. 1,64,590/-	09-12-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	11-12-2025 After 4.10 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-STP) CV-2

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/Adverto/4109/2025-26

Kuruba leaders on Sunday slammed BJP leader AH Vishwanath, who is from their own community, for making "distorted and derogatory remarks" about Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is also a Kuruba. Kuruba leader K A Halappa said Vishwanath should recognise that the entire state accepts Siddaramaiah as a key AHINDA leader

Govt to procure 5 quintals of maize from each farmer

Ahead of Belagavi Session purchase prize fixed at ₹2,400/quintal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

Ahead of the Winter Session in Belagavi, where opposition parties were planning to attack the government on the maize growers' issue, the State government issued an order for a supply contract to be signed between the Karnataka State Cooperative Marketing Federation (KSCMF) and distillers for sale of maize. Registration of farmers will start from Monday for three days.

According to the order issued on Sunday, the KSCMF shall enter into a supply contract with select distillers for supply of maize with price, quantity, location of supply and other commercial terms. The contract fixed the price of maize for 2025-26 at Rs 2,400 per quintal, across all sellers.

The order said that district Deputy Commissioners, Deputy Commissioner of Excise department and Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies will monitor the progress of maize procurement. KSCMF has to ensure regular availability of maize as per demand from buyers within the overall quantity specified in the supply contract. In case market prices are above minimum support price, agencies shall not be liable to procure as per quantities mentioned in the supply contract.

During the kharif season this year, 54.74 lakh tonnes of maize was grown on 17.41 lakh hectares. APMCs started procuring from August 2025, but the price was an average of Rs 1800 per quintal of maize. Following this, maize growers, especially from Kittur Karnataka region, have been protesting for many days. The government order said KSCMF has to procure 5 quintals of maize from farmers and ensure that money is sent to them through direct transfer, within three days of procurement.

Last week, government authorities had called a meeting with ethanol manufacturers and distilleries. Also, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Udupi recently, the district minister had submitted a memorandum to Modi on behalf of the State government, seeking the Central government's intervention.

BHAGAVAD GITA EVENT

HDK to urge Centre for Gita in textbooks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel HD Kumaraswamy said efforts will be made to include Bhagavad Gita in the curriculum of schools, colleges and universities, and it will be discussed with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. He was speaking at the Bhagavad Gita Abhiyana Mahasamarpane programme here on Sunday.

Former deputy chief minister K S Eshwarappa appealed to Kumaraswamy to include Bhagavad Gita in textbooks and the latter promised to initiate steps in the coming days.

Kumaraswamy said the Ramayana and Mahabharata should be taught to schoolchildren to guide them on the right path. "Teaching Bhagavad Gita to children is the need of the hour, as violence, unlawful acts and unrest in society have become a daily affair. Bhagavad Gita is a guiding light for the current generation to keep peace in society. Everyone should inculcate the values of Bhagavad Gita," he added.

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar said the Bhagavad Gita Abhiyana should be expanded across the nation as it will give a platform for everyone to learn and adopt the values of Bhagavad Gita. "For all Indians, it is a matter of pride that Bhagavad Gita originated in India, yet its recitation has been done across the world. It is a work filled with values and lessons for life which is applicable for all generations and for all ages. It has many key solutions and people should inculcate values from it. Lord Krishna taught Bhagavad Gita to the entire world, not only for the situation at Kurukshetra," he added.

Gangadharendra Saraswati, pontiff of Srimad Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sri Sonda Swarnavalli Mahasamsthana, Sonda, said when Bhagavad Gita is taught at a young age, it will help in controlling the crime rate. "The prime motto of the campaign is to build communal harmony. It brings about national integrity and is a guiding light for educated youth of the country. Children who are taught Bhagavad Gita will be like guiding lights to the nation," he added.

Former CM B S Yediyurappa said one must study Bhagavad Gita to know the values and lessons of life. It has solutions for all problems of life. It teaches that one should not run away from facing problems, but should face them with courage, confidence and strength. For a healthy society, Bhagavad Gita is very essential, he added.

Shri Adi Shankaracharya Sharada Lakshminarasimha Peeta, Hariharapura pontiff, Swayamprakasha Sacchidananda Saraswathi seer, Nadamayanandanatha seer of Adichunchanagiri Mutt, Shivamogga, and pontiff of Bekkinkalmutt Mallikarjuna Murugharajendra, MP B Y Raghavendra, MLC D S Arun and others were present.

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy speaks at the Bhagavad Gita Abhiyana Mahasamarpane at Allamaprabhu Park in Shivamogga on Sunday | EXPRESS

Rs 4,000-cr DPR ready for VISL revival, says HDK

Shivamogga: Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy said that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to invest around Rs 4,000 crore has been prepared to restart the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL) in Bhadravathi.

Kumaraswamy said the revived plant will focus on supplying steel to key sectors, including defence and railway. Addressing a press conference at the District JDS Office here on Sunday, Kumaraswamy said the details of the DPR and future plan will be explained during his next visit to Bhadravathi in January or February. "My intention is to ensure that this plant, once restarted, should be able to run successfully for over 50 years without any obstacles," he said.

Criticising the Congress government, Kumaraswamy alleged the State is facing a fiscal deficit of Rs 15,000 crore and no department has achieved their target beyond 40–45%. "Some departments have not spent even 10% of their allocation made in the budget," he said.

Madhwaraj's absence at PM event sparks debate

PRAKASH SAMAGA @ Udupi

THE absence of former sports minister Pramod Madhwaraj when Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the gold-coated 'Kanakana Kindi' at the Sri Krishna Mutt on November 28 has sparked debates in public circles and on social media.

Kanakana Kindi is the window through which saint-poet Kanakadasa is believed to have had the 'darshan' of Lord Krishna in the 16th century.

Madhwaraj had undertaken the gold-coating of the window and the renovation of the adjacent Kanakadasa Gudi to fulfil the wish of Sri Sugunendra Theertha Swamiji of Paryaya Sri Puthige Mutt. On November 26, Madhwaraj visited the Mutt to inspect the work.

After the PM left for Goa, Madhwaraj took to social media, calling it a "miracle" that the Prime Minister himself has garlanded the statue of Kanakadasa at the Kanakadasa Gudi, which was originally built by his father Malpe Madhwaraj in 1965 and inaugurated by the then Chief Minister S Nijalingappa. He also described it as a memorable moment.

Journalist Rajaram Tallur expressed surprise that a leader with a social media team was not present on the occasion. Social activist Dr PV Bhandary termed his exclusion from the event a "big mistake". Sri Rama Sene Mangaluru divisional president Jayaram Ambekallu said contributions to hospitals would have benefited the poor more than religious donations, but said Madhwaraj should have been invited, he said.

Madhwaraj told TNIE that he undertook both the gold-coating project and the repair of the Kanakadasa Gudi according to the seer's wishes. He said he did not feel bad for not being invited to the unveiling ceremony, but he would have felt happy if he was. On speculation that he was sidelined by the BJP during the PM's programme, Madhwaraj said he had never asked the party to include him in the event. His only communication, he said, was with the Mutt authorities.

Dr Rajkumar Abhimanigala Sangha president Sa Ra Govindu pays tribute to actor MS Umesh in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

UMESH WAS ACTIVE IN CINEMA & THEATRE, ACTED FOR 6 DECADES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SUBSEQUENT tests revealed he had cancer at an advanced stage. Despite treatment, he passed away at 8.35 am on Sunday.

Six decades in cinema

Born on April 22, 1945 in Mysuru, Umesh began his artistic journey at a very young age. Active in theatre and cinema from as early as 1948, he first gained recognition as a child actor with the Gubbi Veeranna Drama Company. His talent was soon noticed by filmmaker Puttanna Kanagal, leading to his debut in "Makkala Rajya" in 1960. Over the next six decades, he acted in over 400 films, sharing the screen with legendary actors like Dr Rajkumar, Vishnuvardhan, Ambareesh, Anant Nag, and others. Some of his notable works include Bhagyavantharu, Kiladi Jodi, Guru Shishyaru, Bhoomige Banda Bhagavantha, Halu Jenu, Kamanabillu, Apoorva Sangama, Shruti Seridaga, Megha Mandara, Akasmika, Server Somanna, Megha Maale, Nannaseya Hoove, Jackie, Rambo, Mussanje Maathu, Daredevil Mustafa and Hagalu Vesha. Umesh was honoured with the Karnataka State Film Award for Best Supporting Actor for Katha Sangama (1975) and received the Karnataka Nataka Academy Award in 2013 for his contribution to theatre.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, after offering floral tributes at Ravindra Kalakshetra, said,"The Kannada film industry has lost a legendary actor. I pray that his soul rests in peace and that his family members and fans find the strength to bear this loss."

He also noted that the government had taken care of the cost of Umesh's cancer treatment, as per his request.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said, "I did not know Umesh personally, but I always enjoyed his performances. His demise is a loss to the film industry."

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy posted on X, "I am deeply saddened by the demise of the renowned humor artist M. Umesh. Known for making audiences float in a sea of laughter with his fresh humor, he enriched the Kannada film industry. His departure is a huge loss to the Kannada art world."

Five killed, seven injured as truck hits median, rolls over near Udupi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Udupi

Five persons were killed and seven others injured after a goods vehicle carrying workers and decoration materials on NH-66 hit the median and overturned onto the service road on Sunday. The incident took place near Kottalakotte in Uliyaragoli village, which comes under Kaup police station limits.

The deceased are Kamal and Samaresh from West Bengalu, Pappu and Harish from Assam and Gapunath from Tripura.

Police said the vehicle was driven by Ranjith, an employee of a local decoration agency. The team was headed to a venue in Malpe when the driver lost control of the vehicle and it hit the median, flipped and rolled onto the service road. Three workers were seated in the cabin and nine others in the rear portion of the vehicle at the time of the mishap, sources said. Most of the victims suffered severe head injuries, which proved fatal for five of them. The survivors have been admitted to private hospitals in Udupi and are undergoing treatment in ICUs.

MLA Gurme Suresh Shetty met the injured workers at the hospitals. District In-charge Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar posted on X, "The deceased were daily-wage labourers, and may God give their families the strength to bear this loss. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured."

Karnataka-based startup develops country's 1st defence AI technology

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

Karnataka-based Neuralix AI, a startup company, has developed the country's first 'indigenous defence artificial intelligence (AI) technology' for the defence sector. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched India's first complete 'indigenous defence AI-as-a-Service' (ALAAS) at the 'Chanakya Defence' dialogue organised at the Manik Shah Centre in Delhi recently.

Neuralix, a deep tech company founded by Kannadigas, has developed AI technology for the Indian Army under the IDEX ADITY 2.0 initiative of the Ministry of Defence. This has laid the foundation for the Union Government to build the next generation defence capability through indigenous innovation, according to a press release from Neuralix.

Singh said that the development of indigenous defence AI has strengthened the country's military. The ambitious concept of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' has gained strength.

Vikram Jayaram, Co-Founder, Neuralix AI, said, "The Ministry of Defence, through the IDEX ADITY 2.0 initiative, is giving an opportunity to the country's startups and innovators to build cutting-edge technology in defence innovation and strengthen national security. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Neuralix AI has developed 'Indigenous Defence Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology. This is a matter of pride for Kannadigas. We have played a key role in driving indigenous AI innovation for strategic sectors in India."

The project is designed for an indigenous large language model (LLM) and defence operations. AI technology will help in applications like command support, document intelligence, speech interface, translation engine, operational analytics, foreign cloud services, internet connectivity, data integration, etc. This will help the armed forces build a self-reliant, future-ready digital. It will reduce the dependence on imported technology for operational readiness and operations, the release added.

Inspector says sorry after policemen assault ex-serviceman in Khanapur

Belagavi: A recent assault on a 68-year-old former soldier allegedly by personnel of the Nandagad Police Station has triggered widespread condemnation across Khanapur taluk. Channamallappa Kumbar of Chikkamunavalli village was allegedly beaten and kicked in public after the police stopped him for not wearing a helmet while riding his two-wheeler. Eyewitnesses said Channamallappa was going from Chikkamunavalli to Bhuranaki, and police conducting vehicle checks on the Belagavi–Talaguppa state highway near Beedi village signalled him to stop. When he tried to ride on, a policeman grabbed his shirt, leading to a verbal altercation. The situation escalated quickly, and the police reportedly dragged him to the centre of the road and kicked him with their boots. Locals rushed him to a hospital for treatment. The video of the assault went viral on social media. As news about the incident spreaded, members of the Beedi Village Ex-Servicemen's Association accompanied Channamallappa to the Nandagad police station to file a complaint. They staged a protest outside the station, demanding accountability and action against the cops involved. Inspector Ravikumar Dharmatti apologised to Channamallappa on behalf of the department. Following the apology, the protest was withdrawn, and Channamallappa returned home without filing a complaint. ENS

SNIFFER SQUAD

Two-year-old girl spends night in bushes on coffee estate, pet dog finds her

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Madikeri

A two-year-old girl, who went missing from a line-house in an estate at Kongana village located on the forest fringes at B Shettigeri in South Kodagu, was reunited with her parents by the forest department staff, a pet dog and some villagers.

The girl, Sunanya, and her parents, Sunil and Nagini, who hail from a bee-keeping family, arrived to work at a private estate in B Shettigeri five days ago. On Saturday, the parents let her play with other children and left for work.

When the couple returned in the evening, they could not find Sunanya. The parents asked the other children, but they said they did not know where the girl was.

The parens and other estate workers immediately started a search operation for Sunanya in the estate. They could not trace her and alerted the estate owner, who in turn filed a complaint with the Gonikoppal police.

Team of forest officials and villagers involved in the search operation, along with Sunanya and her parents. (Right) The dog that helped trace the girl | EXPRESS

As the estate is on the forest fringes, the forest department staff too joined the search. To make matters worse, the foresters found footprints of a tiger and a half-eaten carcass of a wild animal. The worried team, which had over 30 foresters, continued the search till midnight, but the girl was untraced.

In the early hours of Sunday, B Shettigeri Gram Panchayat president Kollira Bopanna and his acquaintance Anil Kalappa joined the villagers and restarted the search. Anil had brought in his pet dogs Oreo, Duke, Lala and Chukki along with him.

Sometime after the search, Oreo climbed to the highest point of the estate and started barking repeatedly. The villagers rushed to the spot and found Sunanya sitting by a coffee plant, after spending the entire cold night alone under the bushes.

Pradeep Kumar, the officer-in-charge of Gonikoppal Police Station, later spoke to the workers about the precautionary measures that parents need to take for the safety of their children while going to work.

DRFOs Sridhar, Nagesh, Diwakar, Manjunath and Kiran Acharya, Forest Guards Ponnappa, Somanna Gowda and Antony Prakash were in the team that searched for Sunanya.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils the gold-coated Kanakana Kindi at Sri Krishna Mutt in Udupi on November 28

Telangana government will set up exclusive MSME parks for women in every Assembly constituency as part of a long-term strategy to promote women entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, said IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu

Cyclone Ditwah: 4 killed as heavy rain lashes TN

234 houses damaged, 149 cattle dead in rain-related incidents, 56,000 hectares of paddy fields inundated

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THE cyclonic storm Ditwah, which weakened into a deep depression on Sunday night, resulted in at least four deaths in Tamil Nadu and the inundation of around 56,000 hectares of paddy fields in the delta districts even as it brought relatively less rainfall than expected.

Revenue Minister K K S S R Ramachandran, addressing reporters at the State Emergency Operations Centre in Chennai on Sunday, said that two persons died due to wall collapse in Thoothukudi and Thanjavur districts, while one died of electrocution in Mayiladuthurai, as per official records. In Villupuram, meanwhile, another farmer was killed late on Saturday when he came into contact with an electric wire that had snapped and fallen to the ground.

High waves lash the Kasimedu shoreline amid rough sea conditions in the wake of Cyclone Ditwah, in Chennai, on Sunday | PTI

According to officials, M Renuka (20) was killed in Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district and three of her kin were injured when the wall of their old tile roof house collapsed during heavy rains on Saturday night. In Thoothukudi, 86-year-old S Ayyakutti alias Palavesam of Sivagalai died after the mud wall of his house collapsed on him while he was asleep on Saturday night.

R Prathap (19) of Mayiladuthurai died after being electrocuted by a snapped power line hanging over the road on Saturday night while he was returning home on a two-wheeler. K Subramani (55) of Peramandur in Villupuram, who had taken his cow for grazing, died after a tree fell over an electric post, causing a live wire to fall on Subramani and his cow on Saturday. Both died on the spot.

The minister added that 149 cattle had died in rain-related incidents, while 234 houses and hutments had incurred damage. He said that in the delta districts, which received the most rainfall from the cyclonic storm, 56,000 hectares of paddy fields were inundated.

Answering queries of reporters after reviewing the rain situation in various parts of TN, Ramachandran said 24,000 hectares of paddy fields were in Nagapattinam district, 15,000 hectares in Tiruvarur district and 8,000 in Mayiladuthurai district.

Assessment of damages will begin once the rainwater recedes, he said, adding that Chief Minister M K Stalin will decide on the release of compensation for crop loss.

Mangled remains of the buses involved in the accident in Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday; People rescue the injured | EXPRESS

11 dead, 54 injured after 2 buses collide in TN

VIGNESH V @Sivaganga

IN a horrifying accident, 11 people, including nine women, were killed and at least 54 were injured after a head-on collision between two Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation buses, carrying around 70 passengers, on the Tirupattur-Karaikudi Main Road of Kummangudi village in Tirupattur of Sivaganga district on Sunday evening. The bodies of three women are yet to be identified.

Police said one of the buses, driven by Sendrayan of Dindigul district, was travelling from Kangeyam in Tirupur to Karaikudi, and the other, driven by Sudhakar of Kallipatti, was travelling from Aranthangi to Dindigul. The buses, which were coming from opposite directions, collided on the two-lane state highway around 4.30 pm.

Police and fire and rescue service personnel rushed to the spot and brought the deceased out of the buses. Many of the injured managed to get out of the vehicles on their own with help from villagers.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Superintendent of Police R Shiva Prasad said that preliminary investigation suggested that one of the buses had moved off the median line.

However, no conclusions can be drawn based on this as the police are yet to question the surviving driver, Sudhakar, he said.

The deceased are P Sendrayan (36) of Dindigul district who was driving one of the buses; S Muthumari (60) of Singampunari; R Kalpana (36) of Ilayankudi; V Mallika (61) of Ariyakudi; K Lavanya (50) of Chennai; D Gunalakshmi (55), a SL refugee from the Devakottai refugee camp; M Chellam (55) of Sokkaligapuram in Madurai district and A Deivanai (52) of Coimbatore.

IN COIMBATORE

Man kills wife, posts 'selfie' on WhatsApp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Coimbatore

A 28-year-old woman was hacked to death allegedly by her husband outside a private women's hostel in the city on Sunday morning. Police said the man then took a 'selfie' of himself with her body and posted it as his WhatsApp status while waiting for the cops to arrest him.

The deceased has been identified as **B Sripriya** (28) of Tharuvai near Melapalayam in Tirunelveli district. Her estranged husband, S Balamurugan (32), allegedly posed with her body and posted the photograph at his WhatsApp status with a message claiming she had betrayed him. Other women at the hostel, who had fled for their lives after Balamurugan's alleged attack, called the police. Balamurugan was waiting at the scene when the cops arrived, Rathinapuri police, who arrested him, said.

According to the police, due to marital disputes, last year Sripriya had separated from Balamurugan. She was working at a store in city. Police said that Balamurugan claimed to have learned that Sripriya was in a relationship with one of his relatives and quarrelled with her over the phone. He arrived in Coimbatore on Sunday morning and went to meet Sripriya at her hostel with a sickle, police said.

Balamurugan met his wife in the waiting hall, when an argument broke out between them, he took out the sickle and hacked Sripriya to death, they added.

Pilgrim footfall at Sabarimala climbs to nearly 13L

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Pathanamthitta

THE footfall of pilgrims at Sabarimala during the Mandala-Makaravilakku season is nearing the 13-lakh mark. Officials said that around 12,47,954 devotees had darshan between November 16 and 7 pm on November 30. On Sunday alone, 50,264 pilgrims trekked to the shrine between 12 am and 7 pm. Officials added that nearly 15% of pilgrims who had secured virtual-queue bookings did not show up, while the cap on spot booking continues to be limited to 5,000.

On Sunday, even at 5 am, the valiyanadapandal at the Sannidhanam was almost empty. There were no queues at the 18 Holy steps, and pilgrims arriving from Pampa were able to climb and have darshan without waiting. During the 7.30 am usha puja, the climb was regulated for about half an hour, but crowd pressure remained minimal throughout.

All virtual-queue slots up to December 27 have already been booked, and the booking page now shows only red status, indicating full occupancy. No further virtual-queue slots are available until the mandala season concludes.

As per a High Court directive, spot booking is permitted only after assessing the crowd situation each day, and the service is offered solely at Nilakkal.

The spot booking starts at midnight and is usually closed within an hour. The revised policy — which does not guarantee entry for pilgrims arriving with irumudi without prior booking — has led to confusion among traditional devotees who previously walked straight up without being turned away. However, officials point out that the new restriction has significantly helped reduce crowd density at the Sannidhanam.

9 Ayyappa devotees injured as bus overturns

Salem: Nine Ayyappa devotees suffered minor injuries on Sunday morning after the bus they were travelling in to Sabarimala overturned near the Cauvery river at Mettur in Salem district. A group of nearly 80 devotees from Padiyandal village near Chengam in Tiruvannamalai district had set out in a bus for the pilgrimage. Early in the morning, they stopped near the Cauvery bridge at Mettur so the devotees could take a bath before continuing their journey. Only around 10 passengers were inside the bus at the time and others had got down. Police said that when the driver tried to reverse the vehicle, the bus moved onto a badly damaged stretch of road and slipped, causing it to overturn and tilt down a slope. The passengers inside broke the window panes and managed to get out safely.

READY FOR FESTIVAL

An artist shapes long mud lamps ahead of Karthigai Deepam festival in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday | V KARTHIKALAGU

Ayah arrested for assault on 4-year-old student

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

A 55-year-old ayah at a private school allegedly assaulted a four-year-old nursery student at Poornima School in Shapur Nagar, Jeedimetla, on Saturday evening. The accused, Lakshmi, is said to have attacked the child due to a grudge against her mother, Santhoshi, who also works as an ayah at the same school.

Jeedimetla Inspector G Mallesh said police received a complaint from the victim's mother, who stated that her daughter was taken to the toilet by the accused, who then allegedly hit her with hands and banged her head on the ground.

A video recorded by residents shows the child being slapped and stamped on, and her head forcibly pushed to the floor multiple times. The accused stopped only after noticing someone filming the incident. The video was later shared with the child's mother, who lodged a complaint.

Police registered a case under Sections 75, 85 and 87 of the Juvenile Justice Act and Section 118(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against both the school management and the accused ayah. Lakshmi has been arrested.

The girl has been admitted to a private hospital for treatment. Doctors said she is stable but traumatised by the incident. Jeedimetla police are investigating.

EXPRESS READ

Odisha to amend cow protection law with tough provisions

BHUBANESWAR : The Odisha government is set to tighten cow protection law by completely overhauling the Odisha Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1960, Law minister Prithviraj Harichandan said. He further said the changes will make the law more effective and punishment stricter focusing on ban on illegal transportation and slaughter of cows. Harichandan said the amendments planned by the state government are in line with the Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021 which regulates slaughter, transportation and sale of cattle and beef.

Man threatens minor girl with intimate videos, arrested

KENDRAPARA: Rajkanika police in Kendrapara district, Odisha on Sunday arrested a 32-year-old man for allegedly blackmailing a minor college girl by threatening to circulate her intimate pictures on social media. The accused is Pradipta Senapati of Deulasahi. Police said the 17-year-old girl, in her complaint said that the accused was allegedly threatening to circulate the photos after she recently refused to give him money to purchase a bike. The girl further alleged that Senapati had taken ₹70,000 from her two months back by blackmailing her with the photographs.

Smoke on ship at Paradip port triggers fire scare, risk averted

PARADIP: A major mishap was averted at Paradip port on Saturday night after smoke was detected on a vessel preparing to depart for Krishnapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh. The fire risk arose from coal loaded on the ship, which was subsequently shifted to another berth for safety. Cargo handling operations, which were disrupted resumed operations on Sunday. Panic spread among workers and crew, prompting an immediate alert to the port control room. A senior port officer said on-site irefighting teams controlled the smoke and assisted stevedores with unloading operations.

Mamkootathil case: 1 held for defaming survivor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram

THE cyber police have arrested activist Rahul Easwar and booked four others, including Congress leader Sandeep Warrier, for allegedly unleashing cyberattacks against the woman who had filed a complaint against MLA **Rahul Mamkootathil**, accusing him of rape and forced termination of pregnancy.

Rahul was detained on Sunday afternoon and his arrest was recorded later in the evening after sustained interrogation. Rahul will be produced before the court on Monday. The cyber cops swung into action and registered cases against the five accused after massive cyber attack was reported against the complainant. The three others who were booked are Mahila Congress leader Renjitha Pulickan, Deepa Joseph, and Deepa Mathew.

The police action came following the survivor's complaint, alleging that her personal details were being circulated on social media.

As per the FIR, the accused shared the details of the woman, including her photographs, on Facebook and YouTube. Same sections have been invoked against all the accused.

Rahul was arrested following interrogation at the AR Camp in Thiruvananthapuram. The police also seized his digital gadgets, including mobile phone, which will be subjected to forensic examination. Rahul had courted controversy after allegedly making statements that outraged modesty of women on social media as well as during television channel discussions. The police sources said instructions have been given to the district police chiefs, under whom the cyber stations function, to effectively monitor cyber space and take action against those who post demeaning content against the survivor.

Mindset important, says Stalin on renaming Raj Bhavans

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

ACCEPTING a suggestion made by Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi during the Governors' Conference last year, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has announced that Raj Bhavans in all states and Raj Niwases in Union Territories will be renamed as Lok Bhavans and Lok Niwases, respectively. Pat came the reaction from Chief Minister **MK Stalin**. Reacting sharply to the move, the CM said, "What is needed more than a change in the name is a change in the mindset".

Underscoring that the Legislative Assembly equalled People's Forum, Stalin asked, "Is it a mere eyewash that people who do not believe in the Legislative Assembly are renaming Raj Bhavan as Lok Bhavan (People's House)? Or is it an attempt to subvert the very essence of principles of democracy?"

He said the actual need of the hour is to respect the governments elected by the people and the Assembly that has the sovereignty to fulfill the people's will. "If there is no change in thought and action, this change (in name) is also unnecessary!," the CM said.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs had sent a communication to all secretaries to the governors and Lt governors on November 25 about the renaming of Raj Bhavan and Raj Niwas.

In the communication, Gurrala Parthasarathi, joint secretary to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, said, "It is suggested to rename Raj Bhavans as Lok Bhavans as the word Raj Bhavans smacks of colonialism.Governor RN Ravi himself has, on several occasions, referred to the Raj Bhavan as Makkal Maaligai (Lok Bhavan).

The two elephants brought from Sakrebailu in Shivamogga to Phansoli in Kali Tiger Reserve in Dandeli | RAHUL BAVAJI

2 MALE ELEPHANTS JOIN PHANSOLI CAMP, TO BOOST CONSERVATION, TOURISM

Phansoli (Uttara Kannada): Two elephants from Sakrebailu in Shivamogga have been transported to Phansoli in Dandeli, increasing the total number of pachyderms in the area to five. This development is anticipated to increase both the elephant population and tourism in the region. The camp, situated adjacent to the entry point for the forest safari at Dandeli, is a prominent attraction that draws numerous visitors eager to witness these majestic creatures. Although the camp had remained vibrant for the past decade with four elephants, one had succumbed a few years prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. These elephants will serve the purpose of eco-tourism and will assist the forest department in patrolling efforts. They will spend two hours each day in the camp one hour in the morning and one in the evening. The tuskers will also be allowed to roam within the adjacent forests, after which they will be engaged in patrolling activities.

EDITORIAL

"Achieving gender equality is about disrupting the status quo—not negotiating it"

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

SC FOR FREE DIGITAL OVERSIGHT BODY, BUT THE 'HOW' WIDE OPEN

THE Supreme Court's call for a "neutral, independent and autonomous" regulatory mechanism for digital content marks an inflection point in India's struggle to balance free expression with public safety. It is a moment that demands clarity. The Court's concern is neither moral panic nor a veiled push for censorship. It is an acknowledgement of an undeniable reality—self-regulation, as it stands, is not working.

For years, digital platforms have insisted that voluntary codes, age labels, and grievance bodies are sufficient. In practice, however, harmful content—from obscenity to targeted humiliation of marginalised groups—spreads faster than platforms can react, and far faster than victims can seek redress. This was the concern flagged by Justice Joymalya Bagchi: response time. Once uploaded, the material goes viral before the authorities can act. Children, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable communities bear the brunt. The Court's anxiety is not abstract. It is rooted in lived harm.

At the same time, the fears raised by civil liberties advocates cannot be dismissed. Terms like 'anti-national' have been historically misused, and any regulatory architecture that is vague, overbroad, or politically influenced can chill free speech. The Court signalled caution by calling for effective regulation. The phrase does not endorse any form of prevention or pre-censorship. That restraint is crucial. India's constitutional commitment to free expression must never be compromised through ambiguous standards or discretionary policing of dissent.

What the moment calls for, therefore, is not maximalist regulation but smart, proportionate, transparent oversight. The government's draft proposals submitted to the Court earlier this year speak of clearer content classifications, stronger age verification, and specific rules for harmful or AI-generated content. However, the key lies in who enforces them. A regulator that is truly independent of both state power and industry influence is the only model that can maintain credibility. Its task should be narrow: ensuring due process, rapid response to egregious violations, and accountability from platforms—not micromanaging creative expression.

India has confronted technological disruptions before; the principles that guided earlier transitions remain relevant today. Protect free speech and vulnerable citizens. Ensure competition and transparency. Legislate only after meaningful public debate. But India must be equally vigilant that "effectiveness" never becomes a euphemism for overreach. The challenge is delicate but not insurmountable: to build a system where creators remain free, platforms are responsible, and citizens are safe.

KARNATAKA'S GROWTH HIDES MISSING GIRLS

KARNATAKA may pride itself on advancing across development indices, but it remains locked in a grim battle against female foeticide and infanticide. Its sex ratio of 973 and child sex ratio of 948 sit above national averages, yet these comforting aggregates mask districts where bias against the girl child persists. The latest Child Rights Index shows that Mandya has consistently recorded the lowest child sex ratio—884 in 2020, 873 in 2021, 877 in 2022 and 887 in 2023—improving to 915 only in 2024. Bengaluru Rural fell sharply from 955 in 2023 to 917 in 2024, while Chikkamagaluru dropped from 976 to 928. Bagalkot (919), Bidar (920), Kalaburagi (910) and Chikkaballapur (937) remain troubling. Worse still, several had dipped below 900 girls per 1,000 boys just a year earlier. In a heartening shift, Bidar clocked 991 in 2024.

These are not aberrations. Historically, the state fared better: the 2011 Census recorded a child sex ratio of 948. The downward arc since reflects a patriarchal mindset driving sex-selective abortions and unequal access to feeding, healthcare and immunisation. Officials acknowledge that such declines cannot be explained by normal biological variation. They point unmistakably to sex determination and the selective elimination of girls.

Organised sex-selection rackets reinforce this reality. In Mandya, an ultrasound centre funnelled women to an Ayurvedic hospital in Mysuru, where abortions of girl foetuses cost ₹40,000 each. This single racket accounted for nearly 1,000 female foeticides before its 2023 bust. Several districts now mirror Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, where long-standing gender bias has left communities struggling for brides. While the government has tightened implementation of the PCPNDT Act, loopholes and lenient penalties—the maximum prison term is three years—blunt deterrence. The law still places a disproportionate onus on families rather than on the medical networks that enable the crime.

Ultimately, Karnataka's crisis is not legal but social. Districts like Udupi, Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu—and states such as Kerala and Puducherry—show that literacy, awareness and gender equity can reverse the trend. But until girls stop being viewed as burdens and sons as assets, technology will continue to be weaponised against them. Karnataka has the data and the laws. It now needs the collective will to value every child equally.

QUICK TAKE

GENERIC MOMENTUM

ESWATINI is the first African nation to receive Lenacapavir, the twice-yearly HIV-prevention injection that offers near-total protection and is hailed as a game changer in the fight against a virus that has killed tens of millions. While this marks an unprecedented alignment between US approval and access in sub-Saharan Africa, the next major step in expanding supply lies in India. With Gilead Biopharma offering voluntary licences to four Indian generic drug makers, technology transfer is underway to enable rapid, affordable production once regulators approve it. India's manufacturers can scale up quickly, echoing their historic role in expanding global HIV treatment access—but the country needs the licence for domestic use as well.

Mounting public frustration targets the Sri Lankan government's response, from the lack of a relief-and-rescue mechanism to failure to declare a national emergency or issue timely disaster updates

REAL DISASTER: MISSED EARLY WARNING ALERTS

DILRUKSHI HANDUNNETTI

Award-winning journalist and lawyer; founder and director of the Colombo-based Center for Investigative Reporting

ON November 28, Sundaram Thevapalan (36) and his family had to wade through Colombo's flood waters to find shelter. They received no alerts of 200 mm of rainfall or flooding. The rising water itself served as a warning for those in Colombo's low-lying areas. There were no temple bells, government announcements, or community-based messages. "You read the crisis when water reached your doorstep," he said.

As torrential rains lashed out, Cyclone Ditwah, the worst cyclone to hit the Indian Ocean island nation since 2003, left a trail of destruction. There were 334 deaths, 147,931 displaced, and 370 reported missing.

In the past 130 years, the island faced 16 cyclones, five of them severe, including those in 1978, 2000 and 2003. According to the 2024 Risk Information Index, 87 percent of the population is at medium or high climate risk. Between 2015 and 2022, 304 climate-related disasters were recorded, compared to 35 between 2008 and 2014. This calls for an effective, multi-pronged disaster response that activates upon early warnings.

While the country was overwhelmed by rescue demands, mounting public frustration focused on the state response, from a lack of a combined relief-and-rescue mechanism to failures to declare a national emergency and communicate in a timely manner.

If a November 12 warning by Athula Karunanayake, Director General of the Department of Meteorology, had been heeded, the nation could have been better prepared. In a television discussion, Karunanayake strongly predicted that a depression would develop in the Bay of Bengal by November 14, with the possibility of severe weather.

Having lived through severe storms and the 2004 tsunami, Sri Lanka still seems not to have got its act together. Despite the magnitude of this disaster, the response was slow, poorly coordinated, and insensitive to language. As bad weather intensified, a public holiday was declared on November 28. This affected emergency communications as people reached out to local authorities, only to find no one available. President Dissanayake declared a national emergency on November 29 amid growing criticism of the state's failure to mount an effective, coordinated response to the disaster. Making matters worse, public communications were issued mostly in Sinhala, in violation of the country's language policy and denying critical information to the Tamil-speaking public.

SOURAV ROY

Due to a weak response, the government is now criticised for adding to Cyclone Ditwah's trail of destruction, through omissions that could have contributed to increased fatalities. The majority of disaster warnings being issued only in Sinhala are not a communication error: they are a governance disaster steeped in language discrimination that denied life-saving information at a critical time. The Tamil Guardian first claimed that despite the severity of the cyclone, people in the island's cyclone-battered North and East could not use the information as the state continuously issued almost all emergency communications exclusively in Sinhala or English. "Even official warnings shared by ministries and the DMC at a press conference held at the defence ministry were issued without translation, with Tamil completely excluded and only occasional updates available in English," the Tamil Guardian claimed.

Sanjana Hattotuwa, a Colombo-based disinformation expert and analyst, studied 68 posts on the Disaster Management Centre's official Facebook page posted from November 25 to 7.15 am on November 29. In a LinkedIn post, he noted all critical information on the banner page was in Sinhala. "Of the 68 Facebook posts, just a dozen featured content and vital updates in Tamil. When machine translation was used to study the updates, all of them were related to flooding or the high risk of flooding," he stated.

Hattotuwa further noted: "There was a significant disparity in both the frequency and the granularity of lifesaving, critical information provided in Sinhala versus Tamil. While Sinhala DMC Facebook updates covered a wide spectrum of disaster management, including specific road closures and Advanced Level exam logistics, the posts/updates in Tamil were exclusively around flooding."

Accordingly, what was not effectively communicated to the Tamil-speaking public included, landslide warnings (not a single post in Tamil detailing specific landslide risks despite Tamils living in the hill country, a demographic most vulnerable to landslides), information on critical infrastructure and road closure updates, education and logistical updates such as postponement of examinations, specific river basin-related warnings, granularity of maritime and wind warnings. "The DMC's official website has a selection for Tamil, but aside from page navigation, header, and footer text, everything else remains in Sinhala (or English). By November 28, I had studied 85 updates posted on the Meteorology Department's website." He also studied the official Facebook page, which featured 36 posts in Tamil.

Despite improved language use, Hattotuwa observed significant delays in communicating urgent, life-threatening hazards, poor communication of threat levels from hazard to risk escalation, and inconsistent forecasts. A case in point is the detailed and consistent Sinhala morning forecasts for coastal areas and fishing activities, which went missing in the Tamil posts.

This begs the question about the state's language practice as much as its own disaster preparedness. Critical institutions such as the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) should be the one-stop source for the timely sharing of critical information.

When Cyclone Ditwah is eventually added to the island's cyclone history, moving forward, strengthening disaster communications should be prioritised as part of Sri Lanka's disaster resilience needs. It calls for multilingual capacity, disaster readiness, a combined mechanism/response, and much more.

Once the floods recede and a semblance of normalcy returns, Sri Lanka should also ask some hard questions on state accountability. It is well worth an inquiry to know why the nation did not start preparing from November 12 itself and be response-ready, and why the declaration of a national emergency was an afterthought. Sri Lanka must snap out of being an ambulance chaser all the time and be an early warning system to its nearly 22 million people.

(Views are personal)
(dilrukshi@cir.lk)

THE BHAKTI CONTINUUM

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

THE raising of the Dharmadhvaja at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya was a profoundly moving moment for many, and it may be worth recalling the egalitarian socio-religious movement that prevails at the temple. This is not about upholding an agenda but about our right to know our own history and heritage. A history that's obscured by the clamour of political opponents of the ruling party, who are most welcome to oppose the party as is their democratic right. But in doing so, they also attack the faith of the overwhelming majority of the Indian people.

The mildest observation one can muster about this regrettable reflex is that it seems counter-productive. As bhajan clubbing, the trend that's rocking young India north to south, attests, Gen Z, for one, has undertaken to openly, joyfully, claim its Sanatani birthright. They rejoice in being their authentic selves; their singing, dancing, God-connected selves.

Meanwhile, the heartwarming historical fact that many may not know is that over five centuries of composite Bhakti culture back the Ramanandi sect that officiates at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. This monastic sect is reportedly the largest *sampradaya* or religious tradition in modern India. Its monasteries are led by their successive *mahants* or spiritual heads. No scandal attaches to them, as far as I can discover. The sect's history has ramifications that leave you breathless.

Ramananda, the founder of the sect, is said by some to have lived between 1366 and 1467 CE, to have belonged to Prayagraj, and passed away in Varanasi. Some say he was initially a follower of the Nathpanthi sect, a Shaiva tradition in North India and Nepal, and later became a follower of the 11th-12th-century Vaishnava philosopher Sri Ramanuja of Tamil Nadu. It was Ramanuja who developed the Vishishtadvaita philosophy, tweaking the earlier Advaita of the great reformer Adi Shankara. Apparently, Ramanuja was also the person who coined the term 'Harijan', later picked up by Gandhi from the by-then widespread narrative of Srivaishnavism.

Modern scholars say that it was Ramananda's teacher, Raghavananda, a follower of Ramanuja, who came from the South, and after much wandering, settled in Varanasi. There, and not in the South, he had Ramananda as his disciple. After his studies, Ramananda is said to have settled permanently in Varanasi. He discussed spiritual themes in everyday Hindi to draw in the public. An early social reformer, he accepted disciples without discriminating against anyone on the basis of gender, class or caste, which at times led to internal disputes that were eventually resolved.

Ramananda respected both Saguna Brahman (God with attributes) and Nirguna Brahman (God without attributes); Brahman being an old philosophical term for the Paramatma or God, not the 'brahmin' caste. His disciples accepted both approaches as parallel paths to the Divine.

Ramananda is honoured as the founder not only of the Ramanandi sect but also of the Sant Parampara, the tradition of Bhakti saints in North India, at a time when the northern plains were under Islamic rule. Since temples were destroyed right and left, he refocused Sanatana Dharma on the individual's personal devotion and, inclusively and substantially, reinforced the faith. Ramananda's disciples founded subsects called '*dvara*'. The umbrella sect of Ramanandis continued to thumb its nose at orthodoxy by accepting women and members of all castes and religions. Their core principle was love for 'Sitaram', from Srivaishnavism, where Sri stands for Mahalakshmi. A twist to the tale: some say that the Nawabs of Awadh supported the Ramanandis over 200 years ago in their territorial struggle with orthodox Dasnami sanyasis for Ramjanmabhumi.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Over five centuries of composite Bhakti culture back the Ramanandi sect that officiates at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Reformists like Kabir, Meerabai and Tulsidas were among the greats who shared roots with the vast umbrella network

The story also goes that Sant Kabir was greatly drawn to Ramananda and wished to be initiated by him with a mantra, as is the custom. But Kabir did not know how to approach him. So, he lay on the steps of the ghat that Ramananda descended daily to the Ganga. Unseeingly, Ramananda trod on Kabir, saying 'Ram Ram' as he did with every step, which Kabir took as his initiation.

Ramananda's followers led the reformist Bhakti phase in North India: Kabir, the weaver; Meerabai, the princess; Tulsidas, the priest, whose *Ramcharitmanas* changed Sanatana Dharma forever in the north; Malukdas, the basket-maker; and Nabhaji, the merchant's son, who wrote *Bhaktamal* (Garland of Saints) about Ramanandi devotees of all castes. Verses and works that still flourish.

Now look at the further outreach. Kabir, who took forward the Santmat or tradition of teachers who reconcile devotion to Sagun (*avatar*) and Nirgun (formless God), and uphold the salvatory concepts of Satnaam and Sadguru, is said to have inspired Guru Nanak. The Guru Granth Sahib includes two verses from the older Bhakti wave of Jayadeva's 12th-century *Gita Govindam*, whose writ runs from Meghalaya to Malabar across many languages, and verses by Sant Sadhna, a 14th-century butcher of Sindh.

There was Sant Namdev, the 13th-14th century calico printer, one of the five great Vaishnava saints of Maharashtra, and, in a wild loop, the legendary Aftab-e-Mausiqi (Sun of Music) Ustad Faiyaz Khan, 1886-1950, of the Agra *gharana*, was descended from Malukdas. The powerful Radhasoami sect takes spiritual lineage from Guru Nanak—'Radha' meaning the *jivatma* or individual soul that longs for reunion with 'Swami', the Paramatma. The verses of Kabir, Meerabai (yes, Hindi) and Namdev thrive in the centuries-old Dakshin Bharat Bhajan Sampradaya of South India that includes Panchabhasha and Devbhasha.

It's dazzling to discover how the Ramanandis at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya are connected to this vast historical network of believers emanating from Ramananda. Stunning linkages that should unite regions.

(Views are personal)
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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Shared identities

Ref: *Nationalism replaces dead globalism* (Nov 30). Ethnic nationalism resulted in the downfall of multilateralism and its institutions. Post World War 2, civic nationalism laid the foundations of fostering multilateralism as the new global order. Leaders leaning to the right often dismiss this integral part of history.
Madhu Sudhan Reddy Andem, email

G20 theatrics

Ref: *Nationalism replaces dead globalism* (Nov 30). The G20's symbolism evaporated the moment Washington signalled indifference. Multilateralism now resembles theatre staged for cameras while nationalism writes the real script. When membership shifts with a single declaration, the idea of global equality looks less like governance and more like costume drama.
K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Cinema's bosswomen

Ref: *Awesome twosome* (Nov 30). Aparna Sen and Shabana Azmi's story shows how much Indian cinema still depends on a few brave women to do what the industry itself is afraid to attempt. What strikes me is that even today, very few women in cinema are given the freedom these two fought for.
Aditya Kamble, Kalaburagi

Karnataka crown

Ref: *The go-to man for the 'grand old party'* (Nov 30). Although D K Shivakumar is known as a sharp political strategist and a loyal Congressman, he has not yet shown the statesmanship needed to lead the state. His administrative abilities remain largely unproven, and the corruption cases cast a shadow on his candidature.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

SIR glitches

Ref: *Tracking names from '03* (Nov 30). There is nothing as absurd as asking genuine voters one fine morning to re-establish their citizenship. This will happen to crores of voters who have been excluded from the 2002 rolls purely due to technical reasons. I'm a pensioner from a public-sector bank, and my name isn't included in the 2002 list!
P Mangalachandran, Kannur

Mental wellbeing

Ref: *Speaking their mind* (The New Sunday Express Magazine, Nov 30). Today's youth might not be reluctant to discuss their mental health openly. But is the trend helping them cope? Rising suicides, divorces and anxiety suggest otherwise.
George Jacob, Kochi

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Gaurav Gogoi @GauravGogoiAsm
People of Assam are fed up of this politics and will not wait for too long. We want to live in harmony as a strong united Bor Axom.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
The public is asking: Don't BJP members have hearts? Have all BJP members become insensitive, ruthless, and cruel? If BJP goes, life will be saved!

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
If senior officials of the Election Commission aren't safe, one can only imagine the pressure and intimidation faced by BLOs on the ground.

● Oppn calls National Herald matter a 'completely bogus case' ● Hitting back, BJP says company sold for just ₹50 lakh

It's vendetta: Cong on FIR against Gandhis

Modi-Shah duo is continuing with its mischievous politics of harassment, intimidation, and vendetta against the top leadership of the INC. Those who threaten are insecure and afraid

Jairam Ramesh, Cong general secy

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

LAUNCHING a scathing attack on the Modi-led BJP government after the Delhi Police filed an FIR against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case, the Congress on Sunday alleged that the "Modi-Shah duo" is continuing with its mischievous politics of harassment, intimidation and vendetta against the party's top leadership.

Flaying the action, the opposition party also said that the National Herald matter is a "completely bogus case," and justice will ultimately win.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said, "The Modi-Shah duo is continuing with its mischievous politics of harassment, intimidation, and vendetta against the top leadership of the INC. Those who threaten are themselves insecure and afraid."

The National Herald matter is a completely bogus case. Satyameva Jayate," he said. In another post, Congress spokesperson and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi said that the FIR was "neither wine new nor bottle new nor glasses new". "One trick wonder of a case where no money moved, where no immovable property transferred money laundering yet was invented upon the creation of Young Indian as a not-for-profit co to merely hold shares of AJL, which in turn runs and holds the brand NH and continues to hold all property as before &as always. Condition precedent of ML (money laundering) movement of money and conversion of unaccounted to white money is always absent, yet we have politically malicious proceedings continuing," he wrote.

"Ironically, Gandhis and other Congress functionaries as directors of YI cannot get dividends, cannot distribute profits, get not one perk, yet accused of ML!! Current FIR created by adding a few lines re infusion of money by a private company to enable the payment of assignment money by YI to make AJL debt-free," Singhvi said.

FIR filed in Herald case

Delhi Police has filed an FIR against former Cong presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and other accused in National Herald case on a complaint by ED as part of agency's money laundering investigation

BJP dismisses claims as 'baseless, false'

You will commit loot and become owner of the company and become owner of its property worth crores of rupees by fraudulent means and allege that you are being implicated.

Ravi Shankar Prasad, Senior BJP leader

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

HOURS after Congress termed the FIR lodged against its leaders in the National Herald case a part of the BJP's "mischievous politics," the BJP on Sunday dismissed the allegations as "baseless".

The party challenged Congress leaders to account for the "loot" they allegedly committed instead of just "delivering speeches".

Senior BJP leader and former Union law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that PM Narendra Modi was not in power at the Centre when a private complaint was filed in the matter against the Congress leadership. "The matter dates back to 2008," he told reporters.

Prasad said that the crime branch of Delhi Police filed an FIR on the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) request.

"Just by giving ₹50 lakh, the entire shareholding of the Associated Journals, publisher of the National Herald, was transferred to a new company, Young Indian, and a majority 76% of the share went to Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi," Prasad said, citing allegations against the two leaders.

He further said, "This is a clear case of loot. You will commit loot and become owner of the company and become owner of its property worth crores of rupees by fraudulent means and allege that you are being implicated. Congress is levelling false and baseless allegations," he added.

Prasad also said, "The country should know that in the FIR filed by Delhi Police, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have been charged under section 120(B) for criminal conspiracy and Section 420. The case has been filed under the old penal code because the case is old".

Delhi Police has filed an FIR against the Gandhis and other accused on a complaint by the ED as part of the agency's money laundering probe into the high-profile matter, which alleges that the party's first family "abused" its position for personal Gain, he added.

'Modi not in power in 2008'

Senior BJP leader and former Union law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that PM Narendra Modi was not in power at the Centre in 2008 when a private complaint was filed in the matter against the Congress

INSIDER TRACK

AICC media wing in the firing line

The Congress high command may be publicly "introspecting" after the Bihar debacle, but insiders say the first head on the chopping block is the AICC communication and media department. Many in the party believe the unit completely misread the Bihar moment—press meets were irregular, messaging was unclear, and social media outreach was barely visible. For several leaders, the loss was less an electoral setback than the final confirmation that the communication strategy had been running on fumes. Jairam Ramesh's three-year stint as general secretary in charge of communication is nearing its end. Pawan Khera and Supriya Shrinate have been working with him. Whether the leadership opts for a sweeping restructuring or a cautious course correction remains to be seen.

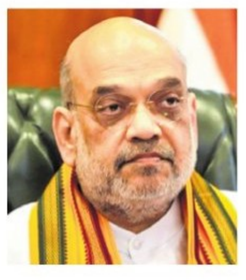
A few got it all wrong

Despite clear instructions from PM Narendra Modi and Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan urging secretaries to amplify government schemes and citizen-centric programmes, a few newly appointed secretaries seem more focused on promoting themselves than their ministries. Particularly in a ministry led by a non-BJP minister, three secretaries recently splashed their own pictures across X and LinkedIn—courtesy outsourced social-media handlers armed with AI-written posts riddled with errors—showcasing mundane internal meetings of no public consequence. This self-branding spree, observers say, has raised eyebrows within senior bureaucracy. Instead of highlighting public-facing initiatives, these officers appear busy building their post-retirement portfolios. The big question floating in North Block corridors: when did government communication turn into an exercise in personal PR?

Buzz on 'Gujarat model' on liquor

The buzz in JDU circles is that Bihar CM Nitish Kumar may be preparing to ease the state's nine-year liquor ban. JDU leaders in Delhi are already in celebratory mode, with one senior leader admitting that election expenses shot up after the ban because liquor still had to be procured illegally for workers and voters. Nitish, however, is believed to be wary of antagonising women voters, so a total rollback is unlikely. Instead, he may emulate Gujarat's "dry but flexible" model—controlled permits, alcohol allowed in top hotels, and regulated wine-and-dine zones for visitors. Liquor for medical reasons and hospitality-linked permits may also return. A key JDU leader coordinating with the BJP claims he has already nudged Nitish toward the Gujarat-style relaxation.

A simple pat, big ripples in the BJP



A small gesture from Amit Shah—a brief pat on the back of a Union Minister during a victory dinner at JP Nadda's residence—has set BJP circles buzzing louder than the Bihar win itself. The pat came after Nadda offered the minister sweets in appreciation of his role in helping the BJP emerge as the single largest party. The moment was witnessed by MPs and MLAs who worked on the campaign, and many now see the minister as a serious contender to eventually succeed Nadda as BJP president. At the same dinner, Nadda hand-fed sweets to Dharmendra Pradhan, Vinod Tawde and Keshav Prasad Maurya—signalling bigger organisational roles ahead. The evening, insiders say, doubled as both celebration and subtle messaging.

RS caps maiden speeches at 15 mins

Newly elected Rajya Sabha members will now have just 15 minutes—no more—to deliver their maiden speeches. A bulletin issued under the direction of the Chairman notes that several first-time MPs had previously exceeded their time, throwing the House schedule into disarray. The new limit aims to maintain discipline and protect subsequent business. The upcoming Winter Session will see four new members from Jammu & Kashmir—Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo, Gurvinder Oberoi, Chaudhary Mohammad Ramzan (all NC) and BJP's Satpal Sharma—testing the new rule as they make their parliamentary debut.

PM terms Tamil as 'pride of India' in Mann ki Baat, urges people to learn it

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lauded Tamil as a great language and a source of pride for India, while highlighting the country's achievements in agriculture, science, defence, tourism and indigenous products during his Mann Ki Baat radio address.

Focusing on the upcoming fourth edition of the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi from December 2, Modi urged citizens to participate and learn the language. In Tamil, he said, "Tamil kalachaaram uyarvanathu, Tamil mozhi uyarvanathu, Tamil Indiavin perumidam" (Tamil culture is great, Tamil language is great, Tamil is the pride of India). He described the event as a key platform connecting people associated with Tamil and strengthening the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

On agriculture, Modi announced a historic milestone, stating India's food grain production had touched 357 million tonnes—an increase of 100 million tonnes in the past decade. He also noted that honey production had more than doubled to over 1.5 lakh metric tonnes, with exports rising threefold. Under the Honey Mission, over 2.25 lakh bee boxes have been distributed by Khadi Gramodyog.

Reiterating his 'vocal for local' push, the Prime Minister said he gifted locally crafted items to world leaders during the G-20 Summit in South Africa, including a bronze Nataraja, silver artworks from Karimnagar and Udaipur, and a brass urli from Kerala.

Modi also highlighted achievements in the drone and defence sectors, space startups, the Geeta Mahotsava, Constitution Day celebrations, and the hoisting of the Dharmadhwaja at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. He further praised natural farming initiatives in South India and promoted winter tourism in Uttarakhand.

Govt to list priorities on first day, VP to debut as RS chair

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR & PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE Winter Session of Parliament will commence on Monday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's customary address to the media. Newly elected Vice President (V-P) CP Radhakrishnan will preside over Rajya Sabha for the first time.

With Opposition parties already up in arms against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls across states, Radhakrishnan will have the delicate task of steering proceedings smoothly amid their expected protests. The Opposition has already sharpened its criticism of the government after the Rajya Sabha Secretariat issued an advisory reminding MPs not to use slogans such as 'Vande Mataram' and 'Jai Hind' inside Parliament in order to maintain decorum.

The last Rajya Sabha session witnessed continuous disruption due to the protests against SIR in Bihar.

Ahead of the start of the session, the PM will speak to the media, outlining the government's priorities and urging the Opposition to contribute to productive proceedings in both the Houses.

The 18th session of Parliament is expected to see the government pursue its reform agenda, including legislation to open the civil nuclear sector to private players, alongside a number of other Bills. This will be the first parliamentary session since the NDA secured a resounding victory in Bihar, a result that has placed the alliance in high political spirits as it aims to secure smooth passage of all listed bills.

Among the bills on the agenda, a key one is The Atomic Energy Bill, 2025, which seeks to regulate the use of atomic energy in India.

Cong firms up strategy for winter session

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE Congress has decided to corner the government on issues such as national security, the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and air pollution, among other issues during the winter session of Parliament, to begin on Monday. However, the party will take a final call on Parliament strategies after a discussion with the INDIA bloc partners on Monday morning.

The decisions were reached at a meeting of the Congress parliamentary strategy group, chaired by CPP chairperson Sonia Gandhi, on Sunday evening. Besides Sonia Gandhi, the meeting was attended by Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, P Chidambaram, Jairam Ramesh, Manish Tewari and Manickam Tagore, among others.

A NEW ERA OF NARI SHAKTI IN AMRIT KAAL AS NATIONAL MISSION

OPINION

ANNPURNA DEVI
Union Minister of Women and Child Development

WHEN women rise, the nation soars. In a society rooted in values of equality and justice, a woman's dignity must be non-negotiable. The Government of India, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has reaffirmed this belief by translating it into institutional frameworks through Mission Shakti—our comprehensive programme for safety, security, and empowerment of women. As the Prime Minister has rightly said, "Our government places utmost importance on 'Samman' and 'Suvidha' for women." These guiding words are not mere sentiments — they are the foundation on which the Modi government has built robust institutional mechanisms for empowering women in every corner of India, under Mission Shakti.

One Stop Centres

At the heart of this effort are the One Stop Centres (OSCs), operationalised under the 'Sambal' sub-scheme of Mission Shakti. Launched in 2015, these centres offer a unified response mechanism to women affected by violence, ensuring they do not suffer in silence or navigate fragmented support systems. Till date, with 862 OSCs functional across India, more than 12.20 lakh women have received integrated support, including legal aid, medical assistance, police facilitation, shelter, and psychological counselling—all under one roof.

From fear to freedom, from silence to support—OSCs are where healing begins. These centres represent a shift from reactive to proactive governance. Whether a woman faces violence in her home, workplace, or a public space, OSCs stand as a testament to the Modi government's resolve to support her recovery, dignity, and justice. Importantly, these centres are located within or near hospitals to ensure immediate access to medical care—a crucial first step in crisis response. Equally important is the universalisation of the Women Helpline (181), which complements OSCs by ensuring 24x7 assistance for women in distress. Functional across 35 states and UTs, the helpline has handled over 2.56 crore calls and aided more than 93.48 lakh women (till 30 September). Integrated with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112), the helpline bridges gap between distress and relief.

Fast Track Special Courts

To reinforce systemic accountability and fast-track justice, we have established 745 Fast Track Special Courts, including 404 exclusive POCSO Courts. These have resolved over 3.06 lakh cases to date, ensuring that justice delayed is not justice denied. Every verdict delivered, every right restored—is a step towards a just and gender-equal Bharat. Justice delivery is no longer constrained by procedural delays, and every survivor can expect time-bound redressal. In tandem, we are strengthening the grassroots with 14,658 Women Help Desks (WHDs) at police stations, of which over 13,700 are led by women. These desks foster confidence among survivors to report crimes, supported by trained personnel sensitised to gender issues. The presence of women officers not only instils confidence but also strengthens institutional sensitivity and accountability.

THE VISION OF A VIKSIT BHARAT BY 2047 IS INCOMPLETE WITHOUT EMPOWERED WOMEN AT THE CENTRE OF IT. NARI SHAKTI IS NOT A SLOGAN. IT IS OUR STRATEGY.

Anti-Human Trafficking Units

We are also tackling human trafficking through 807 operational Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) and ensuring safe mobility through the installation of emergency surveillance systems in railways and road transport services under the Nirbhaya Fund. These interventions ensure that women can move safely, work fearlessly, and thrive in every sphere of public and private life. This integrated approach is not limited to response but extends to prevention, rehabilitation, and empowerment. Through initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), we are changing mindsets and instilling the values of respect, equality, and opportunity.

Through PMMVY and Sakhi Niwas, we are creating systems that value women not just as survivors but as stakeholders in nation's progress. Sakhi Niwas hostels are giving safe and affordable accommodation to over 26,000 working women—many of them in urban and peri-urban areas, allowing them to pursue their dreams. Our strategy under Mission Shakti is built on convergence, coordination, and community ownership. With introduction of SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women, we have added a strategic layer to local implementation, enabling women to access schemes through one platform. Over 27 lakh women have benefitted through these hubs, which serve as localised centres of empowerment and convergence. Violence against women is not just a women's issue; it is a national concern. Every OSC built, every helpline answered, and every case resolved reflects collective commitment of Ministry of Women and Child Development to create a Bharat where every woman lives with dignity, safety, and pride.

Viksit Bharat

As we enter the Amrit Kaal—the golden era of India's growth and transformation—the empowerment of women is not just a goal, but a national mission. The vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 is incomplete without empowered women at the centre of it. Nari Shakti is not a slogan. It is our strategy. It is our strength. It is our future. Women are the backbone of Viksit Bharat—as caregivers, change-makers, entrepreneurs, and leaders. Ensuring them dignity, safety, and opportunity is non-negotiable.

Our journey continues—one empowered woman at a time, one safe space at a time. And with each step, we are building a stronger, safer, and more inclusive Bharat.

ON GUARD

The Forest Department is regularly patrolling areas in at least four suburbs of Mumbai that share common boundaries with the Sanjay Gandhi National Park after frequent sighting of leopards, an official said.

RETIRED

COP, 62, DIES AFTER BEE ATTACK IN UP'S ETAH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	29	18	Mumbai	30	23
Bhopal	25	13	Panaji	32	22
Jaipur	26	15	Patna	26	14
Amritsar	22	07	Lucknow	25	11
Chennai	27	24	Port Blair	29	24
Kolkata	28	21	Imphal	23	12
Srinagar	15	01	Chandigarh	22	06

Assam tribals upset over govt nod to expand ST list

GoM's report, tabled in Assembly, likely to help 6 valley communities

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

Protesters storm the Bodoland Territorial Council Secretariat on Saturday over the grant of Scheduled Tribes status to six communities | EXPRESS

TENSION is brewing in Assam over the proposed inclusion of six communities in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list.

A Group of Ministers (GoM) tabled an interim report in the Assembly on Saturday, recommending a three-tier classification of STs—ST (Plains), ST (Hills) and ST (Valley).

While the ST (Plains) and the ST (Hills) continue to cover the existing tribal communities residing in the plains and the hills, the ST (Valley) will cover the six communities—Ahom, Chutia, Moran, Matak, Koch-Rajbongshi and Tea Tribes (Adivasis). The government move pleased these six communities but upset the existing tribals. The existing tribals believed that the decision would undermine their rights and weaken their political, educational and economic safeguards.

Hundreds of protesters, mostly students, stormed the autonomous Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) secretariat in Kokrajhar and vandalised properties on Saturday. They demanded that the BTC administration revoke the 'no-objection certificate" (NOC) given to the government.

Recently, BTC chief executive member Hagrama Mohilary stated that the NOC was given on the condition that ST status to the six communities must not hurt the interests of existing ST communities.

Leaders of tribal organisations burnt copies of the GoM report in Guwahati on Sunday. They would repeat this act in other parts of the state on Monday. All Bodo Students' Union president Dipen Boro said Assam's existing 45 lakh tribals would be lost if two crore "advanced" people were "imposed on us." "We reject the GoM report," he said. Tribal leader Aditya Khaklari echoed a similar sentiment. "You cannot differentiate the tribals. The government decision will affect the existing tribals," he said.

The GoM report said the three-fold structure would allow reservations in Parliament, legislative Assembly, and local bodies, to be reorganised without reducing the current entitlements of ST (Plains) and ST (Hills) communities.

"However, to achieve this, Parliament must enact special legislation to give the three-fold reservation statutory endorsement. The Government of Assam will request the Government of India to provide statutory recognition of the three-tier classification of the Scheduled Tribes of Assam," the report said.

This arrangement, the report added, will be in tune with the resolution of the Assam Assembly that the six communities be recognised as STs without affecting the rights and privileges of the present tribal communities.

According to the GoM recommendations, the ST (Valley) category will have separate reservation quotas.

37 more Maoists surrender in Chhattisgarh

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THIRTY-seven Naxalites, 27 of them collectively carrying a reward of ₹65 lakh, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada on Sunday, police said.

The cadres, including 12 women, turned themselves in before senior police and CRPF officials here as part of the 'Poona Margem' (from rehabilitation to social reintegration) initiative, Dantewada SP Gaurav Rai shared.

In recent weeks, various districts of the Bastar division have witnessed mass surrenders of Maoist cadres.

"Under the 'Poona Margham' initiative, the Maoists are increasingly choosing the path of peace, dignity, and overall progress," said Sundarraj Pattilingam, IGP, Bastar Range.

Maoists get the initial incentive of ₹50,000 each once they surrender. Besides, if such cadres wish to undergo skill training or set up a small business, they also receive further financial support. They are also provided with free housing, healthcare and farmland, among other amenities, under the government's rehabilitation policy.

As many as 508 Maoists, including a total of 165 Red ultras, carrying rewards on their heads have renounced the armed and violent ideology of CPI (Maoist) during the last 20-odd months in Dantewada to join the path of peace and progress, said SP Rai.

Launch pads active across LoC, terrorists waiting for winters, says BSF official

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AGAINST the backdrop of launch pads of several terrorists being active across the Line of Control (LoC), the border guards have deployed advanced surveillance equipment and upped the vigil to foil infiltration attempts from across the border, a senior BSF officer said on Sunday.

IG BSF Kashmir Frontier Ashok Yadav told reporters that during Operation Sindoor in May, the BSF and Army destroyed many launch pads and forward locations of Pakistan at the Line of Control (LoC).

On May 7, the Indian Army launched Operation Sindoor to target and destroy militant infrastructure in Pakistan and Pok to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 25 tourists and a local ponywala were killed. The skirmishes between India and Pakistan continued for three days and on May 10, both countries announced a ceasefire.

In view of the launchpads destroyed during the operation and their vulnerability, they (Pakistan) shifted some launch pads to other places. "But still several are intact and active at the LoC with terrorists' presence", the IG said.

In response to a question on infiltration attempts, he said, "Before the onset of winter, they always make infiltration attempts taking advantage of low visibility. We have deployed advanced surveillance equipment and covered vulnerable patches to foil such attempts from across the border."

"Pakistan is always trying to push in militants, weapons and drugs to this side of J&K. We along with Army are very alert and all their nefarious designs will be foiled," he said. IG Yadav said Op Sindoor has not ended yet and "if there was any kind of action from Pakistan, it will be given a befitting reply".

On preparedness along the LoC after Op Sindoor, he said, "We have inducted new technology and introduced new training to be able to perform better in future in such a situation."

Pakistan is always trying to push in militants, weapons and drugs to this side of J&K. We along with Army are very alert

Ashok Yadav, IG, BSF (Kashmir Frontier)

CHANDIGARH DIARY

HARPREET BAJWA
Our correspondent in Chandigarh
hsbajwa73@gmail.com

Haryana minister Vij forced to hitchhike

Haryana Transport Minister Anil Vij was recently left stranded outside the Kurushetra Development Board Office and had to hitch a ride to reach the Kurushetra University for an event. The incident took place when the minister attended an inaugural event at Bharam Sarovar where Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh performed a puja. After the event, Singh left for the university to participate in the International Gita seminar, leaving the transport minister behind. A viral video shows Vij standing alone on the road trying to stop Singh's cavalcade but Singh did not notice. Eventually, MP Naveen Jindal stopped and offered Vij a lift.

Sukhu speaks to locals during morning walk

During his routine morning walk on Thursday, Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu visited Kachari Bazaar in Dharamsala and engaged warmly with the locals. He spoke with the daughter of a vegetable vendor and enquired about their business. Interestingly, she was the same girl whom Sukhu spoke last year after which he had announced a loan waiver scheme for small shopkeepers in the state budget. As few young girls were waiting for a bus at Kachari Chowk, he also interacted with them and asked for their well-being besides talking to passersby. The winter session of the HP Assembly began in Dharamsala on Wednesday.

Himachal DCM Agnihotri slams Indigo over delay

Himachal Pradesh DCM Mukesh Agnihotri slammed the IndiGo airline for the delay of its Delhi-Chandigarh flight on Saturday night. In a post on X in Hindi, Agnihotri said the flight, scheduled to depart at 8:30 pm, was rescheduled to 1:30 am due to the non-availability of a pilot. Terming the situation "unacceptable", he said that the passengers were left waiting for hours facing significant inconvenience. AICC in charge for Himachal Pradesh Rajni Patil also criticised the delay in a social media post. She wrote, "Delhi–Chandigarh Indigo flight delayed for an unusually long time due to unavailability of a pilot. Passengers deserve better coordination and communication."

Govt to bring bill to impose 70% cess on tobacco

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE Central government is set to replace the Compensation Cess with a new levy of 70% or higher on tobacco and tobacco-related products. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will introduce the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha on Monday to replace the existing GST Compensation Cess currently imposed on these products.

Under the new Bill, tobacco and related products will attract a 70% cess over and above 40% GST, while cigarettes will face a specific cess ranging from ₹2,700 to ₹11,000 per thousand sticks, depending on length. The move is aimed at safeguarding tax revenues once the Compensation Cess is phased out.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Compensation Cess on tobacco and related products will be discontinued after all interest payments and loan liabilities under the cess account are fully settled. The amendment is intended to provide the government with fiscal space to increase the central excise duty on tobacco to "protect the tax incidence".

The proposed overhaul reflects the government's intent to maintain the historically high tax burden on tobacco.

₹10 lakh fine, three years of jail in paper leak cases, organised cheating in HP

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

HIMACHAL Pradesh has enacted one of the strictest laws in the country to curb paper leaks and organised cheating in recruitment examinations by making the offences non-bailable and cognisable fetching three years' jail term.

In addition to these, individuals caught using unfair means would be fined up to ₹10 lakh, while agencies conducting these exams can be asked to pay up to ₹1 crore.

Under the new Himachal Pradesh Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2025, for which Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has given his assent, guilty individuals will face imprisonment of not less than three years, extendable up to five years, along with fines up to ₹10 lakh.

The service providers, such as agencies tasked with conducting exams, may face fines up to ₹1 crore, in addition to bearing the proportional cost of the compromised examination. They will also be barred from handling any public examination in the state for four years.

Directors, managers, or employees of the firm found guilty may face imprisonment ranging from three to ten years.

STRINGENT LAW

1. Individuals caught using unfair means will face imprisonment of not less than three years, extendable up to five years
2. The guilty persons would be would be fined up to ₹10 lakh in organised crime
3. Agencies conducting these exams can be asked to pay up to ₹1 crore if found guilty

The cases registered under this act will be investigated by officers of the rank of DSP and above. The state government can also entrust any specialised investigating agency with such cases if required.

A notification regarding this was issued by the Law Department in the state gazette on Friday. In September, the state Assembly had passed this bill and then sent to the Raj Bhavan for Gubernatorial assent. The state has witnessed several exam leak scandals in the past decade. The most significant was the junior office assistant (JOA-IT) paper leak linked to the Hamirpur Staff Selection Commission.

After Delhi blast connection, Nuh linked to MP cybercrimes

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

HARYANA'S Nuh district, which is under glare as an operational base of the 'white-collar' terror module linked to 10/11 Delhi blast case, has also come out as the nucleus of Madhya Pradesh's biggest-ever inter-state cybercrime ring.

MP police's cybercrime unit has traced masterminds of the racket to Nuh. The cyber fraud ring involved over 1000 bank accounts of people in Vindhya and Mahakoshal region of MP, being used as mule accounts to park and circulate fraud money. More than 25 people from MP, Haryana and Bihar have been arrested and charge-sheeted.

"As the investigations progress, it's becoming clear that operatives based in Nuh are the masterminds of the racket. They sourced SIM cards and mule accounts mostly from MP and used them for their inter-state racket," said a MP police involved in the probe.

The men in Nuh operated an illegal call centre at a flat in Gurugram, which was used to make calls to people for duping them. The SIM cards, sourced by operatives in MP and other states, reached the kingpins through middlemen based in Patna. The mule bank accounts served as the pipeline through which more than ₹3,000 crore was routed.

"The funds were actually proceeds of cybercrimes committed in various parts of the country, religious charity money as well as money from unknown sources suspected to have been used possibly for terror funding. Large sum of money was routed through mule accounts to the Middle East," the officer added. The fraudsters also operated shell companies in Hyderabad and parts of Maharashtra.

"The 25-plus men arrested over the last 11 months have been charge-sheeted. Now we are going to zero in on the racket masterminds in Nuh," he said.

"Years back it was Jamtara in Jharkhand, but crackdown saw newer hotspots in West Bengal. Over last couple of years Nuh and adjoining Rajasthan districts have emerged as the cybercrime hub," SP (cybercrime cell) Pranay Nagwanshi said.

WIDE NETWORK

HUNDREDS OF SIM CARDS PROCURED & 1,000 MULE ACCOUNTS USED IN MADHYA PRADESH'S VINDHYA AND MAHAKOSHAL REGIONS

In December 2024, 16 private security guards from a factory in MP's Satna reported that some men had persuaded them to open new bank accounts for govt scheme benefits

The guards later discovered that these accounts were being used for business transactions worth lakhs of rupees

The state police cybercrime cell and the anti-terror squad made over 25 arrests across multiple states during Dec–Jan

These accounts were used to park and route over ₹3,000 crore in under 2 years

The masterminds of the racket are believed to be school dropouts operating from Nuh

They ran a call centre in Gurugram that served as the hub of the cyber frauds

GIFT City now manages $100 billion in assets

VISMAY BASU @ Gandhinagar

GIFT City's International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) now hosts over 1,034 registered entities, including 38 banks holding assets worth $100.14 billion, positioning it as a growing competitor to established financial hubs, such as Singapore and Hong Kong.

The centre spans nearly 1,000 acres, with planned expansion to more than 3,300 acres, integrating SEZ and domestic tariff area zones, and is conceived as an integrated smart city combining commercial, residential and civic infrastructures rather than merely a financial district.

The GIFT City idea dates back to 2007, gaining momentum after 2011 through a public-private joint venture. IFSC was formalised under SEZ legislation with a regulatory framework enabling cross-border finance, global capital flows and international banking operations from within India. Beyond banking, the ecosystem includes capital markets, fund management, insurance, fintech, asset-leasing for aircraft and ships, and global in-house centres. The number of companies operating from IFSC grew from 82 in October 2020 to 409 by July 2025. MNCs view GIFT City as a strategic alternative to offshore centres due to supportive regulation, tax incentives and high-quality physical and digital infrastructure.

NERVE CENTRE

GIFT City operates a City Command & Control Centre (C4), acting as nerve centre

Integrating IoT and SCADA-based digital architecture, the C4 connects more than 70,000 I/O monitoring points, overseeing power, water, etc

This allows incident detection, emergency response and predictive maintenance

A defining characteristic of GIFT City is its comprehensive underground utility tunnel, stretching 16 km across the district, housing major utilities — power and ICT cables, water-supply pipelines and sewage, among others. Janki Jethi, Sr. Vice President, Water Infrastructure Department, GIFT City, said, "This is a model in India. Because of this tunnel, there is no need to dig to supply utility connections, whenever a new building is constructed." By removing utilities from the surface grid, the city eliminates need for road excavation for maintenance, establishing India's first "digging-free city."

Above this subterranean backbone, GIFT City operates a City Command & Control Centre (C4), acting as the city's real-time nerve centre. Integrating IoT and SCADA-based digital architecture, the C4 connects more than 70,000 I/O monitoring points, overseeing power, water, wastewater, and district-cooling systems, amomg others. Additional smart-infrastructure systems support a walk-to-work, high-quality urban experience. GIFT City merges global-scale financial services with futuristic civic infrastructure, shaping a model of a technology-driven smart urban environment. K Rajaraman, Chairman of IFSCA, said, "In the coming days this place is going to open enormous business and employment opportunities."

The writer was part of a media delegation to the GIFT City, Gujarat

TECH-LED POLICE REFORMS KEY FOR VIKSIT BHARAT: PM

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged the police forces to change the way they work and are perceived by the public, stressing the need for greater professionalism, empathy, and quicker response time. Speaking on the last day of the 60th All India Conference of Director Generals and Inspector Generals of Police in Raipur, Modi pushed for innovative policing strategies backed by technology.

The three-day event at the Indian Institute of Management focused on 'Viksit Bharat: Security Dimensions' and brought together top police officers from across the country. Modi highlighted the benefits of linking data through the National Intelligence Grid with artificial intelligence to turn information into actionable intelligence that can help fight crime more effectively.

PM Narendra Modi on the last day of the DGP/IGP conference in Raipur on different aspects of India's security infrastructure | X

The call from the PM to radically transform police infrastructure came on a day when 37 cadres of CPI (Maoist) relinquished their ideology and surrendered in Dantewada, about 400 km south of Raipur. Twenty-seven among them carried a cumulative bounty of ₹65 lakh, the Dantewada police said.

Discussions ranged widely—from planning policing reforms up to 2047 to tackling terrorism, ensuring women's safety through tech, bringing back Indian fugitives abroad, and improving forensic investigations. Modi also spoke about raising public awareness about new criminal laws that have replaced old colonial-era rules and the importance of monitoring banned groups while developing areas liberated from Left Wing Extremism.

Modi also awarded the President's Police Medals to Intelligence Bureau officers. More than 700 officers joined the event virtually.

14
abducted in northeastern Nigeria, including a bride, bridesmaids and a baby

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	32	19	SNY
Colombo	29	25	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	33	25	TDS	Moscow	28	13	SNY
Dubai	44	28	SNY	New York	26	15	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	32	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	23	13	SNY
London	20	13	SNY	Washington	26	14	SNY

First responders at scene of a mass shooting on Saturday in Californiia | AP

Gunman opens fire at US family gathering, 4 killed

STOCKTON

FOUR people were killed and 11 wounded in a shooting during a family gathering at a banquet hall in Stockton, sheriff's officials said Saturday.

The victims included both children and adults, said Heather Brent, a spokesperson for the San Joaquin County sheriff's office. Early indications "suggest this may have been a targeted incident," Brent said during a news conference at the scene. Local officials said the suspected shooter has not been caught and pleaded with the public for help. Detectives were still working to identify a possible motive.

"If you have any information as to this individual, reach out immediately. If you are this individual, turn yourself in immediately," San Joaquin County District Attorney Ron Freitas said during a news conference.

The shooting occurred just before 6pm inside the banquet hall, which shares a parking lot with other businesses. Stockton is a city of 320,000 about 40 miles south of Sacramento."This is Thanksgiving weekend. This is when families come together, celebrate, share memories, give each other love," Mayor Christina Fugazi said.

"Unfortunately tonight, heaven is a little bigger with the individuals, children and adults that unfortunately did not make it." Fugazi recalled a shooting several years ago in which "seven people were gunned down" in the city, adding that both attacks were "unacceptable." *AP*

Netanyahu seeks presidential pardon in corruption case

TEL AVIV

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday asked the country's president to grant him a pardon from corruption charges, seeking to end a long-running trial that has bitterly divided the nation.

Netanyahu, who has been at war against Israel's legal system over the charges, said the request would help unify the country at a time of momentous change in the region. But it immediately triggered denunciations from opponents, who said a pardon would weaken democratic institutions and send a dangerous message that he's above the rule of law.

He had submitted a request for a pardon to the legal department of the Office of the President, the prime minister's office said in a statement. The president's office called it an "extraordinary request," carrying with it "significant implications." Netanyahu is the only sitting prime minister in Israeli history to stand trial, after being charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate cases accusing him of exchanging favors with wealthy political supporters. He hasn't been convicted of anything.

He rejected the allegations and has described the case as a witch hunt orchestrated by the media, police and judiciary. His request comes weeks after Donald Trump urged Israel to pardon Netanyahu. Earlier this month, Trump also sent a letter to President Isaac Herzog calling the corruption case "political, unjustified prosecution."

Herzog is a former political rival of Netanyahu, but the men have a good working relationship. In a videotaped statement, Netanyahu said the trial has divided the country. He also said the requirement that he appear in court three times a week is a distraction that makes it difficult for him to lead.

"The continuation of the trial tears us apart from within, stirs up this division, and deepens rifts. I am sure, like many others in the nation, that an immediate conclusion of the trial would greatly help to lower the flames and promote the broad reconciliation that our country so desperately needs," he said.

Benjamin Netanyahu has testified several times over the past year, but proceedings were repeatedly delayed amid wars and unrest triggered by Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel. *AP*

Benjamin Netanyahu

Top Trump officials hold Ukraine talks in Florida

Last-minute bid to refine US-backed peace plan ahead of crucial talks with Putin this week

HALLANDALE BEACH

TOP Trump administration officials met with Ukrainian negotiators in Florida on Sunday, pushing to broker an end to Russia's war in Ukraine and setting the stage for key talks planned this week in Moscow with Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of President Donald Trump, held talks with a Ukrainian delegation to further hash out the details of a proposed peace framework. The negotiations come at a sensitive moment for Ukraine as it continues to push back against Russian forces that invaded in 2022 while dealing with a domestic corruption scandal. Diplomats have been focused on revisions to a proposed 28-point plan developed in negotiations between Washington and Moscow. That plan has been criticised as being too weighted toward Russian demands. As the meeting began Sunday, Rubio focused on reassuring Ukraine.

Marco Rubio

"The end goal, obviously, is not just the end of the war," Rubio said in brief remarks. "But it's also about securing an end to the war that leaves Ukraine sovereign and independent and with an opportunity at real prosperity." "This is not just about peace deals," the top American diplomat said as the teams sat down at the Shell Bay Club, a golf and racket club developed by Witkoff in Hallandale Beach.

Rustem Umerov, head of Ukraine's security council, responded to Rubio by expressing his country's appreciation for US efforts, a message geared toward Trump, who has at times claimed that Ukraine has not been sufficiently grateful for US assistance during the war. "US is hearing us," Umerov said. "US is supporting us. US is working beside us."

Umerov has been involved in ongoing talks. But until now, Ukraine's head negotiator had been Andrii Yermak, the powerful chief of staff of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. On Friday, Zelenskyy announced the resignation of Yermak, after his home was searched by anti-corruption investigators. Zelenskyy's government has come under fresh pressure after a $100 million energy-sector embezzlement scandal involving contractor kickbacks. Other members of the Ukrainian delegation include armed forces chief Andrii Hnatov and presidential adviser Oleksandr Bevz. *AP*

Turkish govt condemns Ukraine tanker drone hits

ISTANBUL: The Turkish government has condemned Ukrainian drone attacks on two Russian "shadow fleet" oil tankers in the Black Sea. Foreign Ministry spokesman Oncu Keceli said the attacks on the Kairos and Virat vessels happened inside Turkey's exclusive economic zone and "have posed serious risks to navigation, life, property and environmental safety in the region." In a late Saturday post, Keceli said Turkey is in talks with "relevant parties" to contain the war's spillover into the Black Sea and protect its economic interests. Ukraine said it used naval drones to hit two tankers off Turkey's coast on Friday; all crew were safe.

Hong Kong building blaze toll rises to 146

HONG KONG: The death toll in Hong Kong's apartment complex blaze rose to 146 on Sunday as investigators discovered more bodies in the burned-out buildings. A steady stream of people placed bouquets of flowers at an ever-growing makeshift memorial at the scene of the disaster, among the worst in the city's history. The Hong Kong police Disaster Victim Identification Unit has been going through the buildings of the Wang Fuk Court complex meticulously and has found bodies both in apartment units and on the roofs, said the officer in charge, Cheng Ka-chun. The buildings remain structurally sound, but the search has been slow, he told reporters, still wearing his white coveralls with his hard hat and respiratory mask at his side. AP

Flood survivors scrounge for food as death toll tops 400 in Indonesia

MEDAN

SOME residents of the flood-hit Indonesian island of Sumatra have resorted to stealing food and water to survive, authorities said Sunday, while Sri Lankan officials said deaths from floods and mudslides in that island nation have risen to 193. The floods, which hit Indonesia nearly a week ago, have killed 442 people — with the number expected to rise as more bodies are recovered — and displaced 290,700 people as nearly 3,000 houses damaged, including 827 that were flattened or swept out by floods.

The deluges triggered landslides, damaged roads, cut off parts of the island, and downed communication lines, prompting officials and limited communities using Starlink satellite internet for relief operations. Another 402 people are missing in Indonesia's three provinces of North Sumatra, West Sumatra and Aceh, according to the National Disaster Management Agency. The challenging weather conditions and the lack of heavy equipment also hampered rescue efforts.

Aid has been slow to reach the hardest-hit city of Sibolga and Central Tapanuli district in North Sumatra. Videos on social media showed people scrambling past crumbling barricades, flooded roads and broken glass to get their hands on food, medicine and gas.

Some waded through waist-deep floodwaters to reach damaged convenience stores.

The spokesperson for the police, Ferry Walintukan, said they received reports of people breaking into shops on Saturday evening, and that regional police had been deployed to restore order.

"The looting happened before logistical aid arrived," Walintukan said. "(Residents) didn't know that aid would come and were worried they would starve." Eleven helicopters were deployed from Jakarta to the affected areas the day after the disaster for ongoing logistics distribution operations, especially to areas where land access was cut off, Cabinet Secretary Teddy Indra Wijaya, said on Sunday, "but unpredictable weather often hampers aid operations." *AP*

An aerial view shows flood damage in Meureudu, Pidie Jaya district in Indonesia's Aceh province; (inset) A car stuck in the mud at a village affected by flash flooding, in Agam, West Sumatra, Indonesia | AFP/AP

323 Indians evacuated from cyclone-hit Lanka

COLOMBO

MORE than 320 Indian nationals stranded at the Colombo airport following the extreme weather conditions in cyclone-hit Sri Lanka, were sent back home on IAF and commercial airline flights on Sunday. The Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka facilitated the evacuation of 323 stranded Indians from the Bandaranaike International Airport here in coordination with the Indian Air Force (IAF) and other relevant officials.

"Two @IAF_MCC flights, an IL 76 with 247 passengers to Thiruvananthapuram and a C 130 J with 76 passengers to Delhi (Hindon), have taken off from Colombo," the Indian High Commission said in a post on X. Further evacuation of stranded passengers through commercial airlines are also underway, it said.

Both the aircraft had arrived in Sri Lanka on Saturday carrying food and humanitarian aid for flash floods victims, officials said. As Sri Lanka battled the aftermath of the powerful cyclone Ditwah, Acting High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Dr Satyanjal Pandey, met stranded compatriots at the Colombo airport on Saturday. The Indian High Commission provided food and water to those who needed it, and also assured the stranded Indians that New Delhi will facilitate their swift travel back home. Sri Lanka declared a state of emergency throughout the island nation after Cyclone Ditwah caused widespread devastation as it left a trail of destruction and damage to infrastructure. *PTI*

ASIA MATTERS

TIGHTER RULES ON PHONE USE BY STUDENTS

Secondary school students will be barred from using smartphones and smartwatches outside lesson time, including during breaks and co-curricular activities, under tightened guidelines on screen use that currently restrict such devices only during regular lessons, *The Straits Times* reported. The revised rules, which also apply to supplementary, enrichment and remedial classes, bring secondary schools in line with the restrictions introduced in January. Smartwatches are included as they allow access to social media apps.

BURGLARY SYNDICATE BUSTED

Police have dismantled a burglary syndicate targeting luxury homes in Precincts 11 and 14 with the arrest of three foreign nationals. Putrajaya police chief Asst Comm Aidi Sham Mohamed said the men, aged 30 to 40, were caught on Nov 28 while ransacking a house and are believed to be linked to at least nine burglaries in recent months. The arrests, made during Operation Pintu Putra, launched on Nov 22 after a spike in break-ins, followed surveillance in which two suspects were seen entering a property while a third waited nearby in a Volkswagen Passat.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TERMINATION OF GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY DATED 14 AUGUST 2018

Whereas our client Sri.B.C.Mariyappa, S/o. Late Chikkanna, R/at. Bhootanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bannerghatta Post, Bangalore 560083 had executed a General Power of Attorney in favor of

1. Mr. Benjamin Kern, S/o. Rev. Louis Paul Kern, **2. Ms. Dorothee Kern,** D/o. Rev. Louis Paul Kern, **3. Ms. Jeannette Kern,** D/o. Rev. Louis Paul Kern, All 1 to 3 R/a. Peniel Garden, Bethamangala Road, Near H.P.Nagar, BEML Nagar Post, Kolar Gold Field - 563115.

On 14th August 2018 in respect of Schedule properties bearing Sy. No. 47/2, an extent of 3-00 Acres and Sy. No. 48, an extent of 1-00 Acre old Sy. No. 29, an extent of 1-00 Acre situated at Bhootanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bannerghatta Post, Bangalore 560083. However the General Power of Attorney executed by B.C.Mariyappa has been terminated / Revoked through legal notice dated 04.10.2025.

This public notice is published for the awareness of the General Public.

K.P. POOVANNA, Advocate
M/s. GLOBAL SURGE LAWS,
No.1304, 9th Cross, 24th Main, J.P. Nagar, 1st Phase, Bangalore 560078
PH: 9845342833

BEFORE THE I ADDITIONAL DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION AT BENGALURU
CC No. 351/ 2024
(SUMMONS TO OPPOSITE PARTY)

BETWEEN: Mr. Harsha Prabhakar, S/o Prabhakar, Aged about 27 years, Residing at No. A-105, Oasis Vijaya, HMS Layout, Chikkalasandra, Bengaluru-560061. and others **...COMPLAINANT**

AND: 1. M/s REDBUS INDIA PVT. LTD., 5th Floor, Indiqube, Leela Galleria Hotel Leela, No. 23, HAL 2nd Stage, Kodihalli, Bengaluru-560008, Karnataka. **...OPPOSITE PARTY No. 1**

2. ORANGE TOURS & TRAVELS, 76-3, Opp. Kalamandir, Outer Ring Road, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037, Karnataka. Phone: 9071766873 / 9071766872 8970692211 **...OPPOSITE PARTY No. 2**

SUMMONS TO OPPOSITE PARTY NO. 1 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 CPC r/w SECTION 38 OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 2019

Whereas the Complainant has filed the above complaint seeking directions from this Hon'ble Commission to: Refund the ticket amount of 1,740/- with interest from the date of booking till realization. Reimburse Rs.739/- towards incidental expenses. Award compensation of Rs. 50,000/- for financial loss and Rs.1,50,000/- for severe mental agony, physical hardship and risk to life Award 10,000/- towards costs of litigation.

Therefore, notice is hereby given to Opposite Party No. 2 to appear either in person or through counsel and contest the matter on or before **29-12-2025** at 10:30 AM, failing which the case will be heard and decided ex-parte in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal of this Hon'ble Commission on 24-11-2025

By order of the Commission, Asst. Registrar-Com-, Asst. Administrative Officer Bengaluru Rural & Bengaluru Urban Addl. District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, 1st Floor, BMTC 'B' Block, TTMC Building K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -2, BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House Building Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560 001
O.A. No.600/2019

Between: Canara Bank, Kalasipalya Branch, Bangalore - 560 028 ...Applicant

And

Mr. N. R. Arshad Ameen ....Defendant

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993, BY PAPER PUBLICATION

To : Mr. N. R. Arshad Ameen S/o. Sadiaj Ulla Shariff M., No. Proprietor of M/s. Alpha Industries , Having Place of business at No. 119, Sy. No. 27/2, Jeehganahally Village, Laxmipuram Post, Magadi Main Road, Kachonhalli Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore - 560 091. **Also at :** No. 19/21, 2nd Floor, 3rd Main Road, Near Holy Mariam School, Bismillanagar, Bangalore - 560 029.

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of The Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the above defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.16,62,938.00** (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Eight only) amount together with current and future interest, cost and other relief's.

Take notice that you are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of service of summons through Paper Publication on **02.01.2026 at 10.30 A. M.** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **28.11.2025.**

By the Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar,
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bangalore

E-Procurement Tender Notification-2

Inviting bids for Laptop and UV-Vis Spectrophotometer. For details, visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact the office of Smt. V.G. College for Women, Kalaburagi – 585102.

Sd/- Principal

KSIE KERALA STATE INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES LTD.
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
Thiruvananthapuram – 14, Ph: 0471-2326947
www.ksie.net,
email: infra.ksieltd@gmail.com

E-TENDER

SITC of Simultaneous Explosive & Narcotics Trace Detector (ETD) at Calicut Air Cargo Complex at Karipur. For more details and tender form visit **www.ksie.net/tender** or **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**

28.11.2025 **Managing Director**

IN THE COURT OF THE VII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS COURT, (CCH-19) AT BENGALURU
P & SC No. 548 /2025

BETWEEN:

Sri. PRADEEP LINGA REDDY, Aged about 46 years, Son of Late Sri. S.R. Linga Reddy, Permanently residing at No. 2983, 12th Main, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar Near State Bank of India Bangalore North, Bengaluru – 560 008.

Represented by the power of attorney, **Mr Balaji Linga Reddy** .....PETITIONER

AND:

NIL .....RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been made to this court under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, praying for the grant of a probate in respect to the suit schedule property in the name of **Late S. R. Linga Reddy who died on 08.01.2025.**

Be it known that no caveat has been entered and the petition is posted for hearing **on 17th December 2025.** All persons claiming to have any interest may appear before this Hon'ble Court **on 17.12.2025 at 11.00 a.m.,** either in person or through pleader, duly instructed, failing which the matter will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

SCHEDULE – 'A' PROPERTY

ITEM No. 1: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Land bearing Sy. No. 88 measuring 3 Acres and 29 Guntas situated at Halasahalli Thippasandra Vilage, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka bounded on the: **East by:** Vaddara Late. Muniswamy's Land, **West by:** Balance portion of Sy. No. 88 of Ramaiah **North by:** Basavana Raju's land and Rudrappa's land, **South by:** Munithayappa's land and Channamma's land

ITEM No. 2: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Land bearing Sy. No. 90 measuring 1 Acre and 8 ½ Guntas situated at Halasahalli Thippasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka bounded on the: **East by :** Property belonging to Sri. T.M. Papaiah bearing Sy No. 90, **West by :** Property belonging to Sri. Gopalappa & Sri. Venkataramanappa. **North by :** Property belonging to Sri. T.C. Sidappa. **South by :** Property belonging to Sri. Rudrappa S/o. Sri. Channappa.

ITEM No. 3: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Land bearing Sy. No. 92/2 measuring 1 Acre and 34 Guntas situated at Halasahalli Thippasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka bounded on the: **East by:** Property belonging to Sri. Rudrappa bearing Sy. No. 91. **West by :** Property belonging to Alamelu Linga Reddy & Venkataswamy Reddy. **North by :** Property belonging to Sri. Gopal Reddy & Sri. Bara Reddy bearing Sy. No. 93. **South by :** Property belonging to Ramaiah and Sri. Subramanya Pai bearing Sy No. 88 and property belonging to Sri. S. R. Linga Reddy bearing Sy No. 95.

ITEM No. 4: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Land bearing Sy. No. 94 measuring 22 Guntas situated at Halasahalli Thippasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka bounded on the: **East by:** Property belonging to Smt. Alamelu Linga Reddy. **West by:** Property belonging to Sri. N. Ganesh Reddy. **North by:** Property bearing Sy. No. 93. **South by:** Property belonging to Sri. S. L. Venkataswamy Reddy.

SCHEDULE - 'B' PROPERTY

ITEM No. 1: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Land bearing Sy. No. 94 measuring 3 Acres situated at Halasahalli Thippasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka bounded on the: **East by:** Mr. Ramaiah's land **West by:** Mr. S. R. Linga Reddy's land and Alamelu Linga Reddy's land **North by :** S. R. Linga Reddy's land **South by:** Sy. No. 78/1

ITEM No. 2: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Land bearing Sy. No. 95 measuring 3 Acres and 8 Guntas situated at Halasahalli Thippasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka bounded on the: **East by :** T. M. Krishnappa's land **West by :** Land bearing Sy. No. 96 of T Ramaiah and T.M. Krishnappa's land **North by :** Bhadra Reddy's land (Sy. No. 93) **South by :** S. L. Venkataswamy Reddy & T. M. Krishnappa lands

ITEM No. 3: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Land bearing Sy. No. 91 measuring 2 Acres and 25 Guntas situated at Halasahalli Thippasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka bounded on the: **East by:** Property belonging to Basavaraj. **West by:** Property belonging to Krishnappa **North by:** Property belonging to Pappaiah and Jagannath, **South by:** Property belonging to Somaiah and Sons.

ITEM No. 4: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Land bearing Sy. No. 88 measuring 1 Acre and 20 Guntas situated at Halasahalli Thippasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka bounded on the: **East by:** Balance portion of Sy. No. 88 belonging to S. R. Linga Reddy. **West by :** Property of S. R. Linga Reddy. **North by :** Sy. No. 78/1 of S. R. Linga Reddy and Private Property. **South by :** Property of S. R. Linga Reddy and Private Property

ITEM No. 5: All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Land bearing Sy. No. 78/1 measuring 1 Acre and 13 Guntas situated at Heggondanahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka bounded on the: **East by :** Mr. T. Papanna's land **West by :** Mr. G. Radhakrishna's land **North by:** Sy. No. 94 of S.L. Venkataswamy Reddy and S. R. Linga Reddy, **South by :** Road

SCHEDULE – 'C' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Land bearing Sy. No. 27/1 measuring 2 Acres and 39 Guntas and Sy. No. 27/2 measuring 2 Acres situated at Sorahunase Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka bounded on the: **East by:** Lands belonging to S. L. Ramaswamy Reddy. **West by:** Government Land **North by:** Muttasandra Road, **South by :** Land belonging to Nanjareddy in the remaining extent of Sy. No. 27

SCHEDULE – 'D' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of one – fourth (25%) of undivided share, including rental in one – fourth (25%) of undivided rental income in the property bearing Municipal No. 2983, PID No. 74 – 1 – 2983, measuring East to West: 18.3 mtrs. and North to South: 26.53 mtrs., totally measuring 485 sq. mtrs., situated at 12th Main, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru – 560008, together with a building consisting of Basement, Ground floor, First Floor, Second Floor, Third Floor and fourth Floor thereon and bounded on the: **East by:** Property bearing No. 2984 **West by:** Property bearing No. 2982, **North by :** Road, **South by:** Property bearing No. 2996

Given under my hand and seal of this court, dated **20th day of November 2025** at Bangalore.

ADVOCATES FOR PETITIONER
SIDDHA LAW
No. 401, A-wing, Blue Cross Chambers, Infantry Cross Road, Bengaluru- 560001
Email: siddha.law@gmail.com
Phone No. +91 90669 69969

By order of the court
Assistant Registrar
City Civil Court
Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my client **Smt. Bhagya. R,** D/o. Late H.B. Rajaram, W/o. R. Ramesh, R/at No.36, 12th Main, Ramaiah Grape Garden, Hosakerehalli, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085, had lost the **original notarized GPA dated: 06/01/1994,** executed by Mr. Adrian Miranda, Ms.Brenden Miranda and Mr. Crystl Miranda all are children of Late Smt. Vilma Miranda and Sri. Ronald Miranda, with respect to House Property **No. 156/6C, Hulimavu Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk,** now comes under GBA (BBMP) Ward No. 193 (Arakere) Bengaluru, measuring East to West: **42 feet** and North to South: **50+44/2 feet** and bounded on: **East by**: Site No. 156/6B, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Arakere Border.

My client had also lodged online complaint before the police vide Lost Report No. 1900794/2025 dated: 13/11/2025.

Anybody able to found the aforesaid original Notarized GPA dated: 06/01/1994, kindly hand over the same to the undersigned.

Apart from that the public are also hereby intimated not to make any transactions with any other\person/s with respect to aforesaid property.

(A.N. Krishna), Advocate,
7, 2nd Floor, B.R. Ramu Building,
Burugal Mutt Cross Road, V.V. Puram, Bengaluru-560004.
Bengaluru Date : 01-12-2025

$11.8 BN US shoppers spending on Black Friday up by 9.1% from 2024, as per Adobe Analytics, which tracks retail websites

SIPs for creating child's education corpus

With education cost rising every year, SIPs in mutual funds can come handy as they are light on investors' pocket

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

WITH the cost of education rising every year, a clear savings plan can help you meet this liability on which you have no control. Mutual fund SIPs can come in handy towards this end as they are light on your pocket.

And if you are a person with school-going kids or planning to have kids, planning for your child's education makes immense financial sense now as this is a long-term liability.

This is important as tuition fees for any course, be it engineering, medicine, design and overseas courses have climbed sharply in the last decade, and the gap between what parents expect and what they eventually need is often much wider than we think. Here comes the importance of starting a SIP early—even with a modest sum, as this brings in a structure to this goal and also reduces the pressure that usually builds up in the final years before college.

Plan, plan and plan more

To begin with, start savings by estimating the future cost with a clear part of that being linked to inflation. For instance, begin this with what kind of education that you want your child to have — local schools, or foreign education, private or government, and the course your child is likely to choose.

Most parents underestimate education/tuition fee inflation, which runs much higher than regular inflation.

A course that costs ₹15 lakh today can easily cross ₹25-30 lakh in a decade. Once you have a broad number, divide it into a monthly SIP amount that fits your budget.

Choosing the right fund

If your child is still in preschool age you have a larger time span and invest less now. For a longer time horizon, equity mutual funds are ideal. If your child is around 10, an SIP with a larger sum in equity funds makes sense. A mix of large and flexi-cap funds can keep things stable and at the same time give you healthy growth on your returns. Keep increasing the SIP amount — by 10-15% — every year. You should expect the fund(s) to grow at an average annual growth rate of 12-15%.

As your goal nears, say three years away, gradually shift some money to short-term debt funds or a conservative hybrid fund so that a sudden market dip doesn't derail your plan.

QUICK TAKES

1. Start savings by estimating the future cost
2. If a child is in pre-school age you have more time
3. Keep increasing SIP amount by 10-15%
4. SIPs are ideal for long-term corpus creation

Why SIPs?

Most parents like SIPs because they automate the saving habits in them. Once the amount leaves your account every month on an appointed day, the rest of your finances fall in place more easily. It also keeps you invested during both good and bad market cycles, which helps you accumulate more units when prices are low.

Mutual fund SIPs are ideal for creation of a corpus in the long-term as they are simpler products without any extra cost involved unlike the many child's plans by insurance schemes. Usually, child's plans of life insurance companies are endowment plans that generate very low returns.

IN CONVERSATION

VARTIKA SHUKLA
Chairperson and Managing Director, Engineers India Ltd

EIL eyes doubling revenue from overseas biz to 20% by FY27

THE state-owned Engineers India Ltd (EIL) last week secured a major overseas project from Nigerian refiner and petrochemical leader Dangote Group, with revenue potential estimated in the "hundreds of millions of dollars." The contract includes expanding Africa's largest oil refinery (to 1.4 million barrels per day) and developing a 12-million-tonne petrochemical complex that will make the facility the world's largest urea producer. Chairperson and Managing Director **Vartika Shukla** tells **Benn Kochuveedan** that while EIL remains the default choice in the domestic oil and gas space for engineering consultancy and project execution, the company now aims to nearly double its overseas revenue contribution to 20% by next fiscal year from the current 12% .

What is the significance of this large order from the Dangote Group from both revenue and project execution perspectives?

This order from the Dangote Group is the largest overseas contract we have secured to date. The contractual value for the petrochemical project in Nigeria is around $70 million. We will design and execute a 12-million-tonne per annum plant, expanding the current 3-million-tonne capacity. Once completed, this will become the world's largest urea plant with an annual output of 7 million tonnes.

The commercial details of the refinery expansion are still being finalised, but we are confident the associated revenue will run into hundreds of millions of dollars.

The project involves expanding the existing 6,50,000 bpd refinery, which we designed and built between 2018 and 2024, to a 1.4 million bpd facility — the largest refinery in Africa. Both projects are scheduled to be executed over the next three years.

The commercial details of the refinery expansion are still being finalised, but the company is confident that the associated revenue will run into hundreds of millions of dollars

This repeat order is a strong affirmation of the trust reposed in EIL's ability to deliver complex, large-scale projects. It reflects that very few companies globally can match our engineering and execution capabilities at this scale.

What is your current order book, and how much of it is from international markets?

Our current order book stands at around ₹13,200 crore, the highest ever for us. Of this, 25% comprises international orders — up from under 10% a few years ago.

With these recent Dangote contracts, we expect overseas business to contribute 20% of our revenue by next fiscal year, compared with around 12% currently.

Could you outline the geographical spread of your international business?

We are largely present in the West Asia and Africa. We have four overseas offices now. The first overseas office is in Nigeria, since 2017 and the second is in Abu Dhabi where we have deployed about 170 people. We largely work for Adnoc (Abu Dhabi National Oil Company) and we are the tier 1 consultant for them now.

Last year, we were upgraded to be top-notch consultants for Adnoc. We mainly do engineering activities in Abu Dhabi.

Recently, we opened our office in Saudi Arabia as well after we won a large order from Saudi Aramco. Our fourth offshore office is in Guyana where we are doing the project management consultancy for a power plant and a small fertilizer unit both will be gas-fired. Guyana is an important destination when it comes to oil and natural gas after the recent massive discoveries.

We haven't focused on many countries and I think our focus will remain limited to these markets for the foreseeable future. Because if you spread yourself too thin, it is very difficult to make sure that the client is happy.

We may have some breakthrough in Indonesia also where there is a very unique opportunity for sustainable aviation fuel.

We are also looking at other opportunities in sustainable aviation fuel globally. Because we see a lot of global movement towards ethanol-blended jet fuel.

MONEY-WISE

SHOULD WE INVEST IN INDIAN EQUITIES

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

FOR a long-term investment horizon, yes, Indian equities remain one of the most compelling long-term opportunities among major economies — even as today. The structural growth drivers are intact and likely to compound powerfully over decades, while current valuations have become more reasonable after the 2024-2025 correction. Why the Long-Term Case Is Strong?

India is still in the early-to-middle stages of a multi-decade economic catch-up: Demographics: A young, growing workforce (median age ~28) and rising middle class, and urbanization rate still below 40%.

Projected real GDP growth: 6-7% annually for the next couple of decades according to most credible forecasts (IMF 6.4% for 2025-2026, with most long-run estimates in the 6-6.5% range; PwC, Goldman Sachs and others see India as the 3rd-largest economy by 2030 and possibly 2nd by 2047-2050).

Corporate earnings growth: Historically tracks nominal GDP growth (9-11% long-term). Major global houses (Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, BlackRock) repeatedly call India their highest-conviction overweight in emerging markets for the coming decade.

Historical precedent supports this. The Sensex/Nifty has delivered 15-16% CAGR in rupee terms over the last 20-30 years (including dividends 16% over the past 20 years ending 2024). Even periods that started at elevated valuations (e.g., 2007-2008 peak PE ~28) still produced 11-13% CAGR over the subsequent 15-20 years because earnings compounded at 12-14% annually. Current Valuations (as of November 2025) Nifty 50 trailing PE 22.8–23 Sensex PE 22.8

These levels are only modestly above the 20-year average (20-21) and well below the 2021–2024 peak of 28+. The market delivered roughly flat to slightly negative returns in the 12-18 months leading into late 2025, which has removed much of the earlier froth (especially in mid- and small-caps).

Large-caps now trade closer to fair value for a 12-14% earnings growth market. Risks you Should Still Price In Short-term volatility remains high — global recession risks, rupee depreciation, oil shocks, or domestic policy missteps can cause 30-50% drawdowns (as happened in 2008, 2020, 2022).

Mid- and small-cap segments are still expensive in pockets — the RBI itself flagged overvaluation there earlier in 2025.

Inflation and rate cycles are benign for the investor.

But over a long term these tend to wash out. Rolling 20-year returns on the Nifty/Sensex have never been negative in nominal terms, and real returns have rarely dipped below 7-8%.

If your horizon is truly 20 years, the exact entry timing matters far less than time in the market.

November 2025 is not the "cheapest" entry point of the past decade, but it is a perfectly reasonable one — valuations have normalised, growth visibility is excellent, and you are buying after a period of underperformance rather than euphoria.

MONEY MATTERS

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN INVESTING IN 2026

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THE year is ending on a high note. The recent quarterly growth data shows a second successive quarter of over 8% economic growth. Benchmark indices such as the NSE Nifty and the BSE Sensex have reached new highs. The September 2025 quarter results showed a recovery in corporate profits after a long time. Overall, the year is ending on a high note.

The New Year is set to usher in more excitement. The pipeline of new public offerings (IPOs) remains strong. Most analysts expect the supply of shares through IPOs to be relentless in 2026. At the same time, there is no dearth of liquidity. Domestic equity- or equity-linked mutual funds continue to receive strong net inflows. Foreign investors hold a far smaller stake in Indian equities. The under-ownership is due to euphoria in Artificial Intelligence and new technology-led stocks in America and other emerging markets. India is not considered a player in the sector. However, some of the biggest consumers of these technologies would be in India due to the large consumer class. It is a market that foreign investors may not ignore for long.

The surge in growth and corporate earnings will continue to make Indian equities attractive if there is no runaway rally. Typically, when benchmark indices breach record highs, there is resistance before prices break out again. That happens only when profits grow steadily, and share prices stagnate. Indian shares may have underperformed other key markets in 2025, but they are still outperformers over five years. In the long term, profit growth matters more to investors than current big-picture trends. Due to steady GDP growth, companies in India that ride that growth tend to grow their businesses and profits steadily. Sectors like automobiles, consumer technology, consumer goods, and ancillaries will continue to remain in the limelight.

A significant rally in metal prices has made the sector an outperformer.

Since that is cyclical, the action could shift to businesses that expand their specialisation into rare-earth magnets and related segments.

The recent designation of Real Estate Investment Trusts and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (REITs and InvITs) as equity assets could help mutual funds launch new fund offerings. That could further channelise savings to the stock market in 2026. Commercial real estate complexes are expanding due to relentless investment in global capability centres by large multinational corporations and the need for office spaces in metro and non-metro cities. There are malls in new cities and new toll highways being built. You could benefit from diversifying your assets.

The outlook for interest rates appears to be benign in 2026. The trend in interest rates is associated with the trend in consumer price inflation. If it continues to fall short of the RBI's 4% target, there could be rate cuts. That should further spur investment. The private sector continues to invest less than the government. In 2026, there is hope that the manufacturing sector companies will expand capacity and hire more workers. India needs businesses to create more jobs to boost consumption further and enhance productivity. A productivity-led economic cycle can help sustain growth momentum.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

What can you do?

If interest rates trend downwards, your returns on fixed deposits could decline. Money lying idle in savings accounts will not generate any returns. Channelising your savings into equity, real estate, or investment trusts could be beneficial in 2026. Using exchange-traded funds or mutual funds gradually through systematic investing is an optimal method. You must engage a financial advisor to help you understand the risks associated with your investments. Reading more than you did the previous year is a good New Year's resolution. Investing in knowledge must precede anything else.

In 2025, IPOs set to cross ₹2 lakh crore

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

WITH 11 more IPOs — including three mainboard issues aiming to mop up ₹6,644 crore — hitting the market this week, the primary market has already surpassed the ₹1.59 lakh crore raised in the whole of last year. This year is now firmly on track to close with fundraising of over ₹2 lakh crore, with more than a dozen large issues lined up.

As of mid-November, 96 mainboard IPOs have been listed, raising ₹1,52,623 crore, compared with the record ₹1,59,784 crore mobilised in the entirety of 2024 from 91 mainboard issues. With three more mainboard IPOs worth ₹6,644 crore opening on December 3, along with eight SME issues expected to raise another ₹600 crore, total fundraising has already reached an all-time high of ₹1,59,867 crore.

Meesho founders Sanjeev Barnwal (L) and Vidit Aatrey | (FILE PHOTO | PTI)

Three main companies to be listed on Tuesday

The three main issues opening on December 3 include SoftBank-backed Meesho, which plans to raise ₹5,422 crore. The others are Aequs, the aviation-focused precision component maker, with a ₹922 crore IPO, and Vidya Wires with a ₹300 crore offering.

The three main issues opening on December 3 include SoftBank-backed Meesho, which plans to raise ₹5,422 crore (₹4,250 crore fresh issue and ₹1,172 crore OFS). The others are Aequs, the aviation-focused precision component maker, with a ₹922 crore IPO, and Vidya Wires with a ₹300 crore offering. With four more weeks to go, nearly a dozen more IPOs are expected. Among them ICICI Prudential Life AMC will be hitting the market for ₹10,000 crore OFS, Clean Max Enviro Energy Solutions will raise ₹5,200 crore through an IPO, Fractal Analytics (₹4,900 crore), and Juniper Green Energy (₹3,000 crore). India's first and largest asset reconstruction company Arcil is also planning to hit the primary market in the second week of December to raise ₹1,500 crore. Wakefit Innovations (₹1,000 crore), Innovatiview India (₹2,000 crore) and Park Medi World (₹1,260 crore) are some of the other IPOs likely in December.

Experts attribute the robust IPO pipeline to rising retail participation and strong domestic capital inflows, which have sustained momentum despite global volatility.

By comparison, 91 IPOs mobilised ₹1.59 lakh crore in 2024, backed by resilient retail interest, strong private capex and a buoyant economy.

Engineering exports fall 16% in Oct; traders seek faster EPM execution

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

INDIA'S engineering goods exporters are seeking faster implementation of the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) as export performance continues to weaken — and US tariffs are not the sole driver of the decline.

Engineering goods exports fell 16.71% year-on-year in October 2025 to $9.37 billion, according to data compiled by the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC India). While the significant drop in shipments to the US contributed the most, several other key markets also recorded negative growth. Exports to the ASEAN region declined nearly 50% to $1.02 billion. Overall, 15 of the top 25 export destinations saw a contraction in October.

The industry believes trade diversion due to US tariffs is one of the reasons behind the declining exports

Pankaj Chadha, Chairman, EEPC India

Exports to major markets including the UAE, Germany, North America, the EU, WANA, South Asia and Latin America registered sharp declines.

In the UAE — India's second-largest market for engineering goods — exports fell 19.3% year-on-year to $667 million in October. "The industry believes that trade diversion due to US tariffs is one of the reasons behind the declining exports," said Pankaj Chadha, Chairman, EEPC India.

The decline in overall engineering exports was led by a fall of over 80% in the 'aircraft and spacecraft' and 'ships, boats and floating structures' segments in October.

Other key sectors such as electrical machinery and equipment, products of iron and steel, industrial machinery, and aluminium products also recorded a year-on-year drop. Twenty-three of 34 engineering panels witnessed negative growth.

Abhishek slams records in SMAT century

Abhishek Sharma on Sunday smashed the joint third-fastest half-century and joint second-fastest in a T20 innings for an Indian (off only 12 deliveries), blasting an unbeaten 148 in Punjab's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy clash against Bengal in Hyderabad. Abhishek hammered 16 sixes and eight fours, helping his side post 112-run victory.

Vintage Virat masterclass

The 37-year-old makes statement with a match-winning 135 as India beat SA by 17 runs

GOMESH S @ Chennai

IT'S not like Virat Kohli hasn't gotten there before. He has gotten to that milestone figure 51 times before in ODIs; 82 times across formats for India. For Kohli, ODI century is a norm. No one has more hundreds in the format. In fact the next two active players behind him are his partner-in-crime Rohit Sharma (33) and the keeper behind his batting crease, Quinton de Kock (22).

But as Kohli guided South Africa's Marco Jansen on the fifth ball of the 38th over in Ranchi on Sunday, the world knew what this particular hundred, 52nd in ODIs, meant to him. He jogged to the other end, leapt like phoenix and punched his fist in the air and let out a roar. Before even he could loft his bat and celebrate, a fan ran on to the ground to touch his feet. That fan, much like the thousands in the ground and millions watching the match live, was aware that he had witnessed an ODI century for the ages.

For this was not like any other Kohli century in recent years. He hadn't batted like he did on Sunday in a while. Kohli's hundreds usually have a template to it, especially in the last three years. More often than not it has been about Kohli the master run-accumulator who plays risk-free strokes and runs between wickets like no one else in the world could. Kohli picks the bad ball out, rotates strike of the rest, making sure the scoreboard moves. Every ODI century he has scored since December 2022 has at least 55 non-boundary runs. In all the eight centuries in this period, they account for 54 per cent.

Sunday, however, was not that kind of a day.

Not by a long mile — only 49 runs of the 120-ball 135 were non-boundary runs as Kohli hit 11 fours and seven sixes, helping India get to 349/8. And he did all that while battling a back issue on a surface that slowed down. From the time he hit that straight drive — after a few edgy balls — down the ground in the sixth over, it seemed clear that Kohli was in his zone. A zone where he makes even the best batters in the world look ordinary in comparison. There are far too may non-century innings in the past, and even a few hundreds, where he had looked so before. But not in the last few years. Here, Kohli was in the middle out-batting, out-scoring his batting partner Rohit Sharma, who has been the best ODI opener and aggressor in the last three years.

Kohli, very unlike himself, was lining up Jansen and lofting him off the front foot down the ground for a six in the powerplay. Soon after, he charged at Ottniel Baartman and got the same result, hitting the pacer over long-off. And that was just the beginning. Rohit took his time early on as Kohli drove pacers, charged and lofted spinners, brought out his wrist to flick seamers like he was playing a computer game. Such was the space he was in, Kohli seemed to be batting in autoplay mode. The upper cuts, backfoot punches, short-arm pulls — the 37-year-old brought out everything as he added 136 runs with Rohit, who also scored a fifty.

At some point, Kohli perhaps knew the remarkable nature of his knock and it showed in the century celebration. The leap and roar are usually reserved for special occasions, especially when you have as many hundreds as Kohli. The last time he leapt in the air for an ODI ton was in a World Cup semifinal when he surpassed Tendulkar to make history in Mumbai. Here, however, the context is different. He and Rohit has been under immense pressure since the Champions Trophy win, especially once they expressed their intentions to play till the 2027 WC.

In the time since, they were, sort of, phased out and retired from Tests, making it the only format they play. Kohli's first two outings for India post that were ducks before he scored a fifty, along with Rohit's ton, to help India finish 1-2 in Australia. And even coming into the SA series, speculations were ripe on their ODI future with selectors and team management remaining non-committal. The former captain knew what he had to do. He just had to come out and do Kohli things that no one else in the world could.

And the 37-year-old did just that reminding the world why he is still the best ODI batter for India and he is not going anywhere anytime soon.

Brief scores: India 349/8 in 50 ovs (Kohli 135, Sharma 57, Rahul 60, Jadeja 32; Baartman 2/60, Burger 2/65) **bt** South Africa 332 in 49.2 ovs (Breetzke 72, Jansen 70, Bosch 67, De Zorzi 39, Brevis 37; Kuldeep 4/68, Rana 3/65).

352

Rohit Sharma went past Shahid Afridi (351) to become the batter with most ODI sixes

83

This was Virat Kohli's 83rd international ton and 52nd in ODIs

> I was just trying to hit the ball and not think of too many other stuff. Once you get a start and get into the situation, you know what to do.
>
> Virat Kohli, India batter

Virat Kohli celebrates his century against South Africa in Ranchi on Sunday | PTI

Indian players during their clash vs Oman on Saturday | ASHWIN PRASATH

Tactics behind low PC variations

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

WORLD No 2 India earned as many as 20 penalty corners against Oman, who are ranked 40 in FIH junior men's rankings, in their second Pool B match of the Hockey Men's Junior World Cup at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai on Saturday. Only five of them were converted into goals by the hosts even as they thrashed their opponents 17-0. In their first match versus Chile, they got six penalty corners and a couple of them were converted by the team.

Conversion rate of penalty corners plays an important role in modern day field hockey and more often than not it turns out to be a decisive factor. Coming into the tournament, it was an area to be addressed for the junior Indian team. Ahead of the event, they finished runners-up at the Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia losing to Australia in the final. Out of 53 PCs they earned in the competition, they converted only eight and the same was discussed in the build up to the Junior World Cup. India coach PR Sreejesh admitted the area is a cause of concern and said, "We trained hard after that tournament (Sultan of Johor Cup). I am not going to give you any excuses for the lack of scoring but when you look at the other teams there their scoring rate was not that great because of some issues with the ground."

Sreejesh's words appear to be true at least looking at what has transpired in Chennai and Madurai so far after the two rounds. The issue is not only ailing India but other top teams including World No 1 and defending champions Germany. In fact, the hosts boast of a superior conversion rate than other top 5 teams except Spain. Their conversion rate after two matches is 26.92 which is more than Germany (18.18), Argentina (3rd ranked, 17.45) and Netherlands (5th, 12.5). Spain (4th) leads the chart in that aspect converting five of the 10 short corners they have earned in two matches.

As their head coach asserted, India would definitely eye an improvement when they take on Switzerland in their last Pool match in Madurai on Tuesday but former India drag-flicker VR Raghunath has a different take on the issue. "It's a good ratio in my opinion (India's conversion rate)," Raghunath told this daily.

Raghunath, who developed drag-flicking skills in the later half of his career, firmly believed that the conversion rate will only improve as the tournament progresses. "Most of the top teams do not want to reveal their PC variations during the group stage. As you are being analysed by your opponents, the teams prefer to keep their variations for later stages when it matters the most," he opined. The former India defender also said that the low conversion of PCs has nothing to do with the fact that the tournament is meant for junior boys. "Most of the players are under-21 and they have enough strength. It has nothing to do with age. During group games, points are important and as long as these top teams are earning points, they prefer to keep their strategies secret for knockout matches. We did that when I was the drag-flicking expert of the team. These all are mind games as drag-flickers usually take safe or direct PCs early in the tournament. Come the knockout stage, I am quite sure the spectators will be able to see wonderful PCs with brilliant variations," he signed off.

Another factor that could have been hurting India is Arajeet Singh Hundal's shoulder injury, which had ruled the drag-flicker out of the tournament forcing Sreejesh's team to look out for other possible options.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

PC CONVERSION RATE OF TOP 5 TEAMS SO FAR

Team	PCE	PCS	PCEF
Germany	11	2	18.18
India	**26**	**7**	**26.92**
Argentina	17	3	17.45
Spain	10	5	50
Netherlands	16	2	12.5

PCE: Penalty corner earned; **PCS:** Penalty corner scored; **PCEF:** Penalty corner efficiency

(Teams have played 2 matches so far)

EXPRESS READ

Belgium pip India to bag Azlan Shah Cup

MALAYSIA: In an entertaining final, Belgium beat India 1-0 in a closely-fought encounter to lift the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup here. India were forced to settle for a silver, thanks to Thibeau Stockbroekx's lone goal of the match in the 34th minute. This is Belgium's maiden Sultan Azlan Shah title and only their second appearance in the event.

IPL: Russell retires, to be power coach of KKR

KOLKATA: All-rounder Andre Russell on Sunday announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League ahead of the mini auction scheduled for December 16, and will join three-time winners Kolkata Knight Riders' coaching staff. The 37-year-old Russell will join their coaching staff as a "power coach" ahead of the 2026 edition.

Sanya bags maiden PSA Challenger title

MUMBAI: Fifth seed Sanya Vats, a two-time former junior national champion, defeated fourth seed Nirupama Dubey 11-6, 11-9, 11-4 to clinch the women's title in the 11th Sunil Verma Memorial squash here on Sunday. It was the Delhi girl's first PSA title. In the men's final, French Maceo Levy beat Egyptian top seed Yassin Elshafei 11-8, 11-8, 11-4.

Title race goes down to wire after Max success

DOHA: Max Verstappen boosted his late bid for a fifth successive drivers' world championship on Sunday when he took full advantage of a McLaren strategic blunder to complete a hat-trick of victories at the Qatar GP. His win lifted him into second place in the title race with 396 points, 12 behind series leader Norris who finished fourth.

Lack of presence in paint a concern as India suffer yet another setback

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

ONE of the biggest concerns in India's 57-81 loss to Saudi Arabia in the 2027 FIBA World Cup qualifiers match here on Sunday was the lack of India's lack of presence in the paint. The centres in the game of basketball are expected to be in the box inside the arc, which is called "the paint." They are expected to collect rebounds both in defense and offense.

After coming off a 51-75 defeat at Jeddah on Friday, India were expected to put on an improved show. However, they could not even improve the deficit (24 points) from Friday's loss. While it can be said that the team builds its platform to win by shooting from outside the D, the lack of centres in the paint to collect rebounds, as well as act as the last line of defense, poses a big concern.

Captain Palpreet Singh Brar, Amjyot Singh and Aravind Annadurai played in this position.

Action from the match between India and Saudi Arabia on Sunday

None of them could match up the centres of Saudi Arabia's. As a result, the visitors did not break a sweat in scoring points and blocking shots. Saudi Arabia's lanky centre (6'9) centre Mohammed Alsuwailem had a comfortable night in making field goals and blocking opposition lay-ups. He ended the night with eight points, nine rebounds (4 defensive and 1 offensive) and four blocks.

On the other side, both Singh and Brar together only collected four rebounds, and Annadurai ended the night with two. India head coach Scott Flemming did not give excuses about this issue, but also spoke about the injuries and availability of the said players, who are "the older guys" of the team. "Amjyot is coming back from a serious shoulder injury. He has fought his way back but he is not where he needs to be. Aravind did an okay job but he just joined us about a week ago. But the centres have not been as good as they can be," he said in the post-match press conference.

Kanwar Sandhu was the only positive for the hosts, ending his game with 19 points. His three successful three point shots got the crowd going. It can be said that his performance may have improved India's field goal percentage (29 per cent) by a notch from Friday's defeat (27 per cent).

Argentina and NZ play out thriller

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

TWO-TIME champions Argentina were favourites when they started their second Pool C match against New Zealand here at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium on Sunday afternoon. As expected, Mateo Torrigiani converted a penalty corner in the second minute to give them an early lead.

However, Jonty Elmes of New Zealand restored the parity two minutes later through a penalty corner to make it clear that the World No 3 side would not have it easy against them. Elmes scored two more goals through brilliant field efforts as the World No 12 New Zealand managed to hold their more famed rivals to a 3-3 draw and keep their hopes of directly qualifying for the quarterfinals alive.

Argentina & New Zealand players in action on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

Today's results: Madurai: Pool D: Egypt 2-4 Namibia; Belgium 0-2 Spain; Pool E: England 13-0 Austria; Malaysia 0-6 Netherlands; **Chennai:** Pool C: Japan 3-2 China; New Zealand 3-3 Argentina; Pool F: Korea 3-3 Bangladesh; Australia 3-8 France.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

FOOTBALL

League leaders Arsenal held by 10-man Chelsea

AGENCIES @ London

MIKEL Merino rescued Arsenal as the Premier League leaders battled to a 1-1 draw against 10-man Chelsea in a bad-tempered London derby on Sunday.

Chelsea midfielder Moises Caicedo was sent off for a crude foul on Merino late in the first half at Stamford Bridge.

Despite Caicedo's dismissal, Trevoh Chalobah headed Chelsea into a second half lead, but Merino's leveller ensured Arsenal emerged unscathed from a bruising encounter between the title rivals. Arsenal are five points clear of second-placed Manchester City, who beat Newcastle on Saturday, and sit six points above third-placed Chelsea. When the dust had settled on a contest of relentless intensity, Arsenal were left to rue a missed opportunity to extend their lead over Chelsea in the title race, while the Blues were relieved to avoid a damaging defeat. In another match, Alexander Isak finally scored his first Premier League goal for troubled Liverpool to inspire a much-needed 2-0 win against West Ham. Isak had failed to score in his five top-flight appearances since making a British record £125 million move from Newcastle in September.

Arsenal's Mikel Merino (R) celebrates after scoring against Chelsea | AFP

Meanwhile, Joshua Zirkzee scored his first Premier League goal for nearly a year before Mason Mount grabbed the winner as Manchester United came from behind to beat Crystal Palace 2-1.

Results: Aston Villa **1-0** Wolves; Crystal Palace **1-2** Manchester United; Nottingham Forest **0-2** Brighton; West Ham United **0-2** Liverpool; Chelsea **1-1** Arsenal.

Gayatri-Treesa triumph, heartbreak for Srikanth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

TREESA Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand retained the women's doubles crown while Kidambi Srikanth narrowly missed out on the men's singles top prize in the Syed Modi International meet in Lucknow on Sunday.

Treesa and Gayatri had to dig deep to get over the line. The doubles pair beat Japanese pair of Kaho Osawa and Mai Tanabe 17-21, 21-13, 21-15 in the summit tie. It's a welcome result for the Indian combination, who has had injury troubles and had endured a tough season. Later, Srikanth, with his trademark smashes, put up a spirited effort and had his nose in front in the deciding game against Jason Gunawan of Hong Kong China. But his World No 59 rival raised his level in the nick of the time to silence the home crowd. Gunawan won 21-16, 8-21, 22-20.

Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly celebrate their victory | BAI

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

SSC JE (TIER 1)	SNAP TEST 1	BEL EAT
Date: Dec 3 to 6	Date: Dec 6	Date: Dec 7

IIM CALCUTTA

Iconic Events & Traditions

1. Life at IIM Calcutta is shaped by a mix of student-run cultural, academic, and competitive events that define the campus atmosphere. The annual 7 Lakes Fest (7LF), organised by student committees, is the largest cultural event, combining performances, contests, and large-scale coordination. Selection to the organising group is competitive and considered a significant responsibility.

2. Academic and entrepreneurial events add to campus life. Mandi gives first-years real-market selling experience, sharpening their negotiation skills. Genesis brings students and guests together for workshops and pitch sessions, while the E-Cell Business Carnival pushes idea generation and practical problem-solving.

3. Section Wars and World War are internal contests that build group identity, while Sangharsh, the annual ABCL sports meet, rotates across campuses and includes multiple sporting events. Other social events such as the Freshers' Party, Jobbers' Night, and IR Party mark academic and placement milestones, and hostel-level gatherings remain common throughout the year.

4. Additional annual events include the National Conclave on Entrepreneurship with IIM Calcutta Innovation Park, focusing on innovation and the startup ecosystem; Lattice, an MBAEx/PGPEX-led business symposium with panels and competitions; and Trilytics, a PGDBA analytics summit with workshops, case contests, and talks on data and emerging technologies.

5. The Institute Lecture Series (ILS) hosts invited speakers from diverse fields to discuss leadership, policy, and social themes. The 36th lecture, delivered during the institute's 65th Foundation Day, focused on leadership and purpose in contemporary contexts.

Initiatives, Ventures, and Collaborations

The IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP), set up in 2014 as a Section 8 company, focuses on supporting innovation-led and socially oriented entrepreneurship with a strong emphasis on livelihood creation.

Its work centres on three areas

- supporting early-stage startups
- building entrepreneurship ecosystems, particularly in underserved regions
- enabling grassroots, women-led enterprises

Since inception, IIMCIP has supported more than 2,000 startups and provided seed funding to 124 of them, deploying ₹30.46 crore. Its portfolio companies have raised ₹2,087.52 crore in follow-on funding, maintain an 88% survival rate, and together report a valuation above ₹7,729 crore. These ventures report having reached 9.5 million people and created over 28,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Swami Sarvapriyananda Maharaj planting a sapling at IIM-C

IIMCIP works with central and state government bodies such as the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, National Rural Livelihoods Mission, the North Eastern Council, and the governments of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Bihar and West Bengal.

Industry and international partners include Tata Sons, Maruti Suzuki India, Pernod Ricard India Foundation, HDFC Bank, Balmer Lawrie, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles, TechnoServe, JICA, Omidyar Network India, GDI Hub, the UAE-India CEPA Council and the US Consulate , Kolkata.

WHAT'S FUN ON CAMPUS?

- **Best dish in the canteen:** Peri Peri Fries from WH Night Mess. **Most awesome informal tradition:** Seniors helping juniors without being asked. PGP2s regularly sit with hundreds of students for CV reviews and prep sessions.

CAMPUS LINGO:
- **JST (Joka Standard Time):** Parties begin much later than planned.
- **Globe:** Talk with no real substance.
- **Monty:** The resident monitor lizard spotted around campus.

After major wins or events, the chant is simple: JOKA! JOKA!

- **Best time to be on campus:** December to February. Cool, quiet, and picture-perfect. **Best hangout spot:** The Jetty by the lakes. Music sessions, long conversations, and reset time for most students.
- **Most Instagram-worthy spot:** The Auditorium, iconic and elegant.

MOST COMPETITIVE CLUBS OR TEAMS
- The Cultural Cell for its festivals and performances.
- MarC, the Marketing Club.
- The 7 Lakes Fest Organising Team, known for its intense selection process & workload.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Ajay Bisaria
PGDM, 20th Batch (1985)
Former High Commissioner of India to Pakistan and Canada
A veteran Indian diplomat with key postings across Europe and South Asia. Former Ambassador to Poland and Lithuania, Princeton alumnus, strategic advisor, ORF Distinguished Fellow, and author.

Indra Nooyi
PGDM, 11th Batch (1976)
Former Chairperson and CEO, PepsiCo
Indian-American business leader who led PepsiCo's global transformation. A graduate of MCC, IIM Calcutta, and Yale, she advanced strategy, sustainability, and healthier portfolios during her tenure.

Sriharsha Majety
PGDM, 46th Batch (2011)
Co-Founder and Group CEO, Swiggy
Entrepreneur who built Swiggy into a major food delivery and quick-commerce platform. A BITS Pilani graduate with global finance experience, he earlier co-founded Bundl before its pivot to Swiggy.

Ajit Balakrishnan
PGDM, 6th Batch (1971)
Founder and CEO, Rediff.com
Pioneer of India's early internet ecosystem. Founder of Rediff.com, longtime technology and policy leader, and former Chair of IIM Calcutta's Board of Governors and IAMAI.

Vinayak Lohani
PGDM, 38th Batch (2003)
Founder, Parivaar
Social entrepreneur who founded Parivaar, a major residential and educational institution for underprivileged children. IIT Kharagpur and IIM Calcutta alumnus, inspired by Vivekananda's ideals, and a Padma Shri awardee.

CAMPUS, CULTURE, CHANGE, AT IIM-C

Across academics, partnerships, student activities, and research interests, IIM-C continues to define its contemporary identity

A conversation with Director Alok Kumar Rai on new programmes, partnerships, campus life, and the institute's direction

What are the unique strengths or focus areas that set IIM Calcutta apart from other IIMs?
The wide pool of distinguished alumni in national and global workspaces of corporate governance and other fields is the biggest strength of the institute. IIM Calcutta has been the first Indian institute to obtain the triple crown AACSB, AMBA, and EQUIS accreditation status and has also been reaccredited, which is rare among Indian business schools. The institute is also the only Indian member of CEMS, a global alliance of 33 business schools, multinational companies, and NGOs offering the CEMS Master in International Management. The interdisciplinarity and inter-institutional programmes like PGDBA with ISI Kolkata and IIT Kharagpur and PGP VLMP with IIT Kanpur, IIT Madras, and JICA are also unique. IIM Calcutta started the first Financial Research and Trading Lab in the country with Bloomberg terminals for real-time market data and trading simulators, enabling hands-on exposure to markets and strengthening the institute in the finance domain.

How is your institute supporting the holistic development of students beyond academics?
As they say in Latin, 'Mens sana in corpore sano', meaning 'A healthy mind in a healthy body.' The promotion of sports, physical fitness, and participation in fests and tournaments helps students cultivate time management, strategic thinking, communication, and collaborative skills. I have always believed and practised that an educational institution is 'of' the student. Students are the purpose of its existence. Taking complete ownership of the students is the responsibility of the institute. An attempt is being made to strengthen both the hardware and software of the institute; from classroom and hostel infrastructure to digital and data infrastructure, all are being worked upon. Digital evaluation is an outcome students have been asking for, so we have developed our own AI platform for evaluation. We have also registered on the National Academic Depository, and from this academic year, we will provide mark sheets and degrees to students' Digilockers.

How is the IIM Calcutta Innovation Park shaping the institute's role in supporting entrepreneurship, especially in Eastern India?
IIM Calcutta is dedicated to the creation, collation, and dissemination of knowledge on entrepreneurship and innovation. The IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP) is a not-for-profit (Section 8) company established under the aegis of IIM Calcutta with the broad objective to actively foster innovation and socially impactful entrepreneurs, enabling livelihood creation. They recently hosted the TATA Social Enterprise Challenge (TSEC) in a collaborative endeavour with TATA Sons. IIMCIP is largely concentrating on furthering social entrepreneurship, and I am planning to further serve this purpose by strengthening entrepreneurial spirit among our students.

Are you introducing any new academic programmes? If so, what gaps or needs are they designed to address?
IIM Calcutta has five full-time programmes: MBA, MBA Executive, PGDBA, PGPX VLMP, and the Doctoral programme. Continuous curricular innovation ensures programmes remain aligned with real-world needs, and helps students adapt to a rapidly evolving world. We have recently started the Executive Doctoral programme and are going to start programmes such as the MBA in Design with the National Institute of Design and the MBA in Healthcare with a premier government medical institute. We are also going to start Artificial Intelligence-based certificate, diploma, and degree programmes from our upcoming centre of online education with a leading global software company. We are reengineering our VLMP and PGDBA programmes and contemplating an international collaborator. Work has begun on a new programme on Entrepreneurship with a leading US university. An MBA in capital markets is being worked on with the National Stock Exchange, Mumbai.

I have always believed that an educational institution belongs to its students, and that students are the very purpose of its existence.

— Prof Alok Kumar Rai, Director, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta

As the only Indian member of the CEMS network, how is IIM Calcutta using global partnerships to expand academic and career opportunities for students?
Among the 5 "I" principles of IIM Calcutta, the principle of Internationalisation is very important for the sustenance and overall growth of the institute. As a step towards its vision of becoming an International Centre of Excellence in Management Education, IIM-C is in the club of 33 premier business schools from across the world as an academic partner and the only Indian member. Students in the CEMS MIM programme spend a term or more in at least one partner institution abroad, sometimes two. This mobility helps them understand different business cultures, widen their network, and gain first-hand international experience both socially and professionally. CEMS builds a bridge between academia and industry via its Corporate Partners such as the Adani group, which we recently onboarded. There are around 70 Corporate Partners, 8 Social Partners, and over 21,500 alumni of 100+ nationalities, offering mentoring, referrals, and networking for career growth.

Where do you see India in 2050, and what role do you see your institute playing towards the same vision?
India is striving hard to be developed as a 'Viksit Bharat'. We, as an institute of national importance, have a role to play in not just strengthening the intellectual infrastructure of the country by providing highly skilled human resources, but also in contributing towards policy formation and addressing social and economic disparity as a way of meeting national developmental goals. Strong academics rooted in contemporary needs and developed around dynamic and effective essentials of innovative pedagogy, leading towards research-based innovative outcomes, is something that IIM Calcutta is equipping itself for.

To read the full interview on edexlive.com, scan the QR code

STUDENT VOICES

RITIKESH GUPTA,
MBA 2nd Year, 61st Batch (2024-2026)

"The academics are rigorous, but at the same time, the PORs provide ample opportunities for autonomy and the ability to create change. The friendships I've formed here feel almost like family. I've had unexpected opportunities I could never have imagined, and this environment has given me everything — my purpose, my direction, and clarity about who I want to be. In ways beyond anything I anticipated, Joka has shaped me both personally and professionally. It's a place that challenges you, supports you, and leaves you with lessons you carry for life."

RAHUL SINGH,
MBA 2nd Year, 61st Batch (2024-2026)

"The best part of studying at IIM Calcutta is the friendships you build almost without realising it. Amid intense group projects, late-night deadlines, and countless chai breaks, you start leaning on batchmates, juniors, and seniors. Campus diversity subtly shifts your perspective in every conversation. What I value most is the autonomy students have; you truly get to run initiatives and shape the institute. Through these experiences, you learn not just about business and society, but also about yourself."

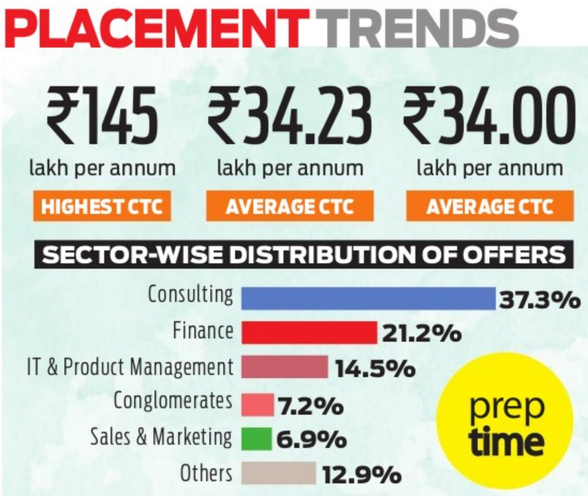
POOJA SHARMA,
MBA 2nd Year, 61st Batch (2024-2026)

"Studying here has been one of the most human and transformative experiences of my life. The campus is beautiful, but it's the people who truly change you. You study with a cohort that is sharp, talented, and driven, yet warm, supportive, and collaborative. Everyone brings a unique story, and you learn as much from late-night conversations as from classes. The opportunities are endless, but what stays with you most is how people lift you, challenge you, and believe in your potential."

PLACEMENT TRENDS

₹145 lakh per annum	₹34.23 lakh per annum	₹34.00 lakh per annum
HIGHEST CTC	AVERAGE CTC	AVERAGE CTC

SECTOR-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF OFFERS



456 BATCH SIZE
196 RECRUITERS
34 NEW RECRUITERS

YOY CHANGE
~5% AVERAGE CTC
~13% MEDIAN CTC
₹58.3 lakh TOP 10% AVERAGE PACKAGE
₹48.1 lakh TOP 25% AVERAGE PACKAGE

Notable changes
- Increase in roles within consulting
- Higher hiring activity from Indian startups

Top recruiters (alphabetical)
Accenture, American Express, BCG, EXL, EY-Parthenon, Kotak Bank, Navi, PwC, TCS, Zomato

International offers: 4

PPOs: 35–40% of the batch

Key challenge: Wider outreach needed due to market uncertainty and competition

LIFE AT IIM-C
Campus life includes academic work, cultural activities, group projects, student initiatives, and a steady rhythm of events that bring different parts of the community together.

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Treaty signed

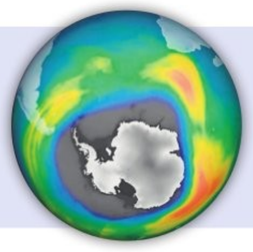
The Antarctic Treaty, the first arms control treaty after World War II, was signed in Washington DC, on this day in 1959

PURPOSE

The treaty encouraged peaceful cooperation, freedom of scientific research, and exchange of scientific information and personnel in Antarctica

LEGACY

Environmental monitoring in Antarctica has led to the discovery of the seasonal depletion of atmospheric ozone over the continent



MEMBERS

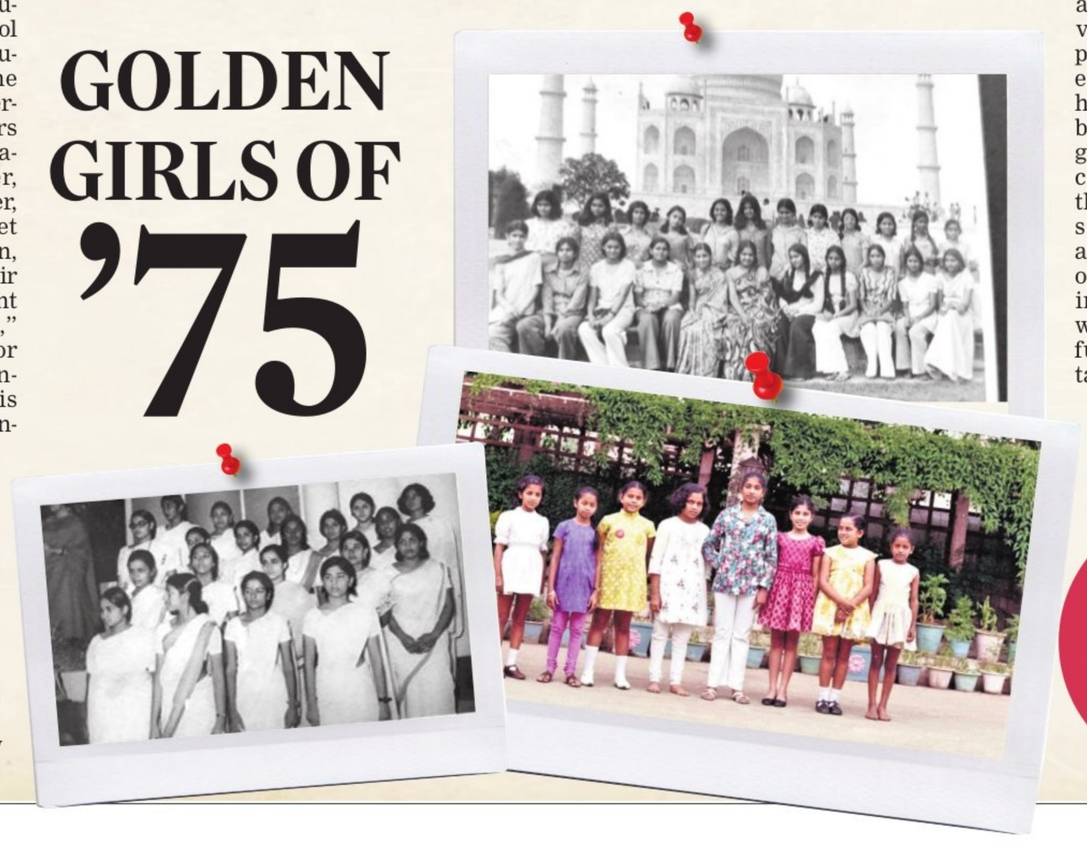
While there were only 12 countries as members when the treaty was signed, 57 states today – 29 with voting status and 28 with observer status – are part of the treaty

A look at the hottest entertainment news

PG 4

With photobooths, a curated yearbook, fun games and a hearty lunch, the 1975 graduates of Sophia High School are having a reunion, 50 years after graduating from the iconic girls' school

GOLDEN GIRLS OF '75



MAHIMA NAGARAJU

IN the midst of a newly imposed national Emergency in 1975, a class of 65 girls graduated from Sophia High School with big dreams and the education to make them come true. Life took them in different paths – to far off corners of the world and varied careers – but 50 years later, they're set to come together, reminisce and once again get to know the girls, now women, whose presence coloured their childhoods. "It's been constant excitement from everyone," says Namitha Shetty, director of Shankaranarayana Constructions and Hotels, who is organising the reunion at Bangalore Club on Dec 2. The celebrations will begin today with an informal lunch. "There have been so many surprises. I had lost touch with many and when word spread about the reunion, I started getting calls from my classmates, wanting to talk. I was equally curious about them and the first thing I asked is to send me a picture because I don't know what they look like now!" adds Shetty with a laugh.

On Tuesday, the class will reunite for a lunch along with a few fun activities to get conversations going, including a photo booth and a quiz. Shetty explains, "The photo booth has little posters taking us back in time to 1975 – the Emergency, the prices of different commodities, and trivia like that.The quiz is all about our school days with questions about teachers, subjects, and other things we had at school in those times." The alumni will also leave with a thoughtfully-compiled yearbook detailing the accomplishments of each alumna with pictures to go along with it.

The school, one of the iconic girls' educational institutions in Bengaluru, has produced distinguished alumni since it was founded in 1949. Looking back on her time at the school, Dr Shalini Chandrashekar Nooyi, now the principal and dean of MS Ramaiah Medical College, says, "With the kind of education that Sophia's has given us, you can see that many of us have become women leaders – doctors, businesswomen, and have become accomplished people. Sophia's taught us to have confidence in ourselves," she says.

Indra Lakshmanan Menon, the chairman and managing director of Senapathy Whiteley Group, echoes similar sentiments, saying, "The school was classy but everyone wasn't affluent – we had kids from all backgrounds, we had all races and religions and we were so cordial and loving toward each other." That doesn't mean that Menon and her classmates didn't get up to any girlhood mischief. Even though she says, there was very little room for it, Menon recalls with a laugh, "We sometimes bunked class and went through the back (of the school), through the Bangalore Golf Club to Ashoka. It had just opened and was a big thrill in those days. One bottle of Coke was one or two rupees, so we bought two bottles, and 10 of us drank it."

With old recollections coming alive, the group – abuzz with chatter – is ready to make new memories, promptly dressed in their house colours – Anderson (yellow); Barat (red); Bennett (purple) and Julie (green).

There have been so many surprises. I had lost touch with many and when word spread about the reunion, I started getting calls from my classmates, wanting to talk

Namitha Shetty, alumna

'EPILEPSY SHAPED MY SPORTING CHOICES'

From gravity-defying fielding to dealing with epilepsy, former South Africa cricketer and coach Jonty Rhodes opens up about his extraordinary journey on and off the field during his visit to Bengaluru

SRUTHI HEMACHANDRAN

WITH bated breath, the packed stadium follows the ball as it races towards the boundary. Then, in a split second, **Jonty Rhodes** launches himself forward, body parallel to the ground and arm outstretched. The direct hit crashes into the stumps. Batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq is caught short of his crease. Rhodes is already on his feet, grinning, exchanging high-fives with his team as the crowd erupts in celebration.

Today, that moment from the 1992 World Cup lives on beyond the stadium. Scroll down and the comments of a YouTube video of the 'Superman run-out', 15 years old, says it all – '70 per cent of Earth is covered by water. The rest is covered by Jonty Rhodes.' "The Greatest Of All Time" Another netizen warns, "Stunts are performed by experts. Do not try this at home." (sic). The International Cricket Council (ICC) has since labelled the run-out as one of the greatest moments in Men's Cricket World Cup history.

Yet, the former South Africa cricketer speaks with modesty about the moment that redefined fielding. "The only thing going through my mind was the ball. That, and the fact that my throwing accuracy wasn't very good," says Rhodes, who was in ooru for the launch of Aster CMI Hospital's Centre of Excellence for Epilepsy.

From backward point, he remembers seeing three stumps at the bowler's end, with Imran Khan batting and his hands up, giving him a better target. At the other end, there was just one stump on Inzamam's side. "Inzamam was young then. We didn't realise how bad he was between the wickets, but he was tall and lumbering. The only way I could cover those last two metres quicker than him was through the air. So I took the dive. I'd never done it before and I never did it again."

At the time, fielding was rarely celebrated. There were no specialised coaches, no drills designed to fine-tune athleticism. "It was 90-over test cricket and I was diving around the field because I loved it. There was always a key message for me that there are no shortcuts. If you're passionate about what you're doing, hardwork doesn't feel like a labour. It's more of a passion," says the cricketer, who lives in Goa for six months of the year and spends the rest in Cape Town.

That love translated into relentless effort in Test cricket – diving, sprinting and anticipating, as he says with a broad smile, "At one stage I felt like the father of fielding. Now I feel like the grandfather of fielding. I've been around for a long time."

Anticipation, he says, was his real strength. "Everyone at that level has good reflexes. Anticipation is expecting every ball to come to you. That split second makes the difference between a good fielder and a great one," he shares. It's a philosophy that continues to shape modern cricket, visible in the athleticism now demanded of every player. Rhodes would later witness this evolution firsthand during his nine seasons with the IPL giant Mumbai Indians, joining the franchise in 2010. "Cricket keeps changing and that's great," says Rhodes, currently the South African cricketer.

Behind this legacy lies a story far removed from packed stadiums and roaring applause. Growing up in South Africa, Rhodes was diagnosed with a mild form of epilepsy at age six, at a time when the condition was poorly understood. "My parents knew that something was going on, they just didn't know what. My father was a rugby player in his youth. Epilepsy certainly prevented me from playing rugby and following in his footsteps. So a key message for me was that when you know your limits, you can overcome them. Epilepsy shaped my sporting choices," he says, adding that hockey and football became his training ground, teaching him balance, spatial awareness and speed skills, that later defined his cricketing identity.

Even safety was thoughtfully negotiated. When helmets weren't available in South Africa, his parents ordered one from England. That early support shapes the message he shares today. "Don't stop dreaming. Just make sure your dreams are aligned with what you can and can't achieve," he says addressing young athletes with epilepsy.

PIC: CHETHAN K

PIC: CRICKET SOUTH AFRICA

Jonty Rhodes in action

Raise a Hat to History

With the 180-year-old mansion and shopping centre, The Hatworks Boulevard, to shut its doors, here's a look at its history of catering to maharajas and generals

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

FOR anyone who traverses Cunningham Road today, seeing the nightly traffic jams and choc-a-block storefronts lining its length, it would be hard to imagine that 60 years ago, it was populated by sprawling properties with beautiful colonial bungalows. But walking its stretch with a wandering eye and curious feet, you might just stumble into The Hatworks Boulevard, one of the last vestiges of this old world that one of its owners Rishad Minocher converted into a shopping centre in 2004. However, very soon, it will close its doors to make way for a new structure. "With the next generation – me and my (four) siblings, our kids and now grandkids on the way – there are 18 of us. We are going for a development to make the space available to the family," explains Minocher, who lives in a home beside the colonial building.

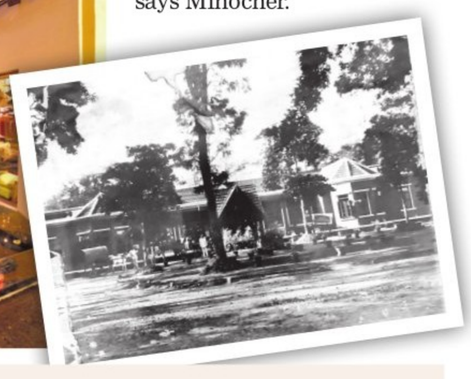
Blast to the Past

The building was purchased by Minocher's maternal grandfather, master hat-maker Nadir Maneckjee in the 1940s, after renting the house since the 1920s as the base of Imperial Hatworks, his hat factory, showroom, and residence. Although some reports have speculated that the house is 180 years old, its exact age is uncertain, explains Minocher, "Before my grandfather, the house belonged to a gentleman named Mr Bhatta. We really don't have any idea on how old it was, but it was already an old home at the time my grandfather bought it."

While the structure has the typical layout of colonial homes, with a long corridor lined with rooms, Maneckjee added his own touches to it. "He did a lot of restoration and modernisation work. We have some old photographs of the house in a very bad condition and you can make out that the house has changed," says Minocher, adding, "He added a lot of Parsi elements, like the flame near the roof as the holy fire is central to the religion. The flooring too, has changed. In the old days, it used to be Kadappa stone and red oxide. But the central part of the house where my grandfather's showroom was, had tiles from a Mumbai manufacturer who made Italian-style tiles in India as part of the Satyagraha movement."

The outhouse currently home to Trippy Goat Cafe (a reconstructed building after the original structure caved in), used to be Maneckjee's workshop where he crafted headgear for the armed forces, and later even sola topis (safari hats), polo hats, riding hats, and the occasional royal turban. "My grandfather developed the very first pre-tied turban for the maharaja of Mysore – the uncle of the previous maharaja Srikantadutta Wadiyar," says Minocher, adding, "Most of the generals bought their hats from my grandfather. He was also one of the founders of the first Rotary Club in Bangalore so he was very much in public life in those days."

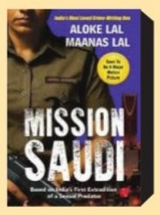
After Maneckjee's passing in the '60s, his daughter, a teacher, inherited the business. But without the master craftsman at its helm, its glory days were past. "Since all the hats were hand made and the makers were trained by my grandfather, without him around to train new people, it started dying out, even though it was well known in its day," says Minocher.



What's next?

As businesses have started to vacate, the end of The Hatworks Boulevard is here but what will replace it is uncertain. "We are still figuring it out. We're very sad to move on as my kids were born here and we've lived here all this time. It's the biggest change for us. Since my grandfather bought the property which went to my mother, then to us, we believe we are custodians, so whatever we do, it will represent us as a family. We are not thinking of building a commercial space, it will mostly be residential with, maybe a little more to finance the building," says Minocher, adding that rebuilding the heritage space outside the city is a possibility.

BOOK NOOK



Mission Saudi: Based on India's First Extradition of a sexual Predator

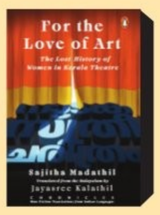
By Aloke Lal and Maanas Lal

It is the gripping true story of a landmark case that tested the limits of international law, diplomacy and courage.

Beyond the Spotlight: Unforgettable Stories from between Takes

By Prosenjit Chatterjee with Roshmila Bhattacharya

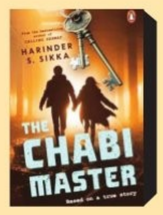
It is a voyage through Prosenjit Chatterjee's memories. It gives readers a glimpse at the real people behind the shadows of stardom and myth, whose hard work and dedication translate into the magic we witness on-screen.



For the Love of Art: The Lost History of Women in Kerala Theatre

By Sajitha Madathil

The author rewrites the script of Kerala's stage, a place where women once weren't even allowed to stand, let alone speak.



The Chabimaster

By Harinder S Sikka

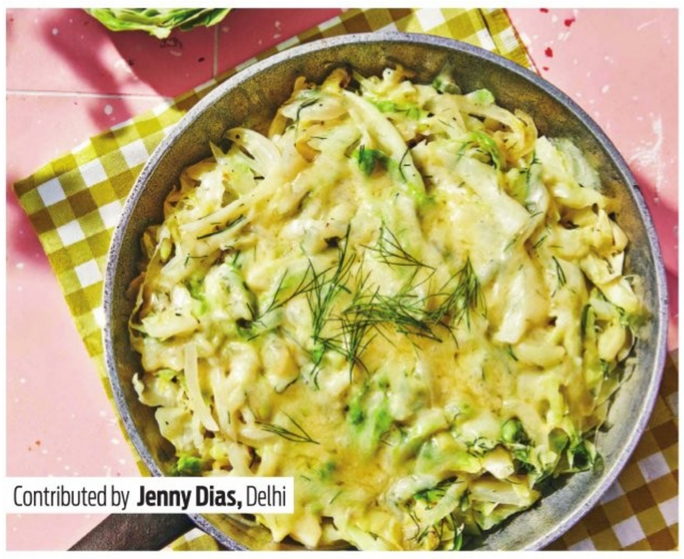
Samy, a RAW specialist whose disarming mastery of locks earns him the name 'Chabimaster'. Tasked with penetrating a clandestine network, Samy's pursuit moves across India, Pakistan, London and Istanbul.

CAME, SAW, CARTED

Visitors check out Three Distinct Moods, a designer wear collection by Stuti Dhanukja, hosted by Shalini Mangalani at The Summit Hall, Marriott Suites & Apartments, UB City | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

QUICKFIX

CHEESY CABBAGE



Contributed by **Jenny Dias,** Delhi

INGREDIENTS

- **Cabbage:** 300 g
- **Capers:** 1 cup
- **Parsley:** 100 g
- **Cream:** 2 cups,
- **Vinegar:** 1 tbsp
- **Cheese:** 200 g

METHOD

- In a small bowl, whisk together freshly – cream, capers, vinegar and parsley. Set aside.
- In a Dutch oven or skillet, heat olive oil over medium-high heat.
- Add cabbage, cover and cook, stirring often, for about 5-6 minutes, or until the cabbage is tender.
- Remove lid, whisk the mixture and drizzle into cabbage, stirring well. Cook for about two minutes, until mixture is thickened and cabbage is well glazed. Stir in salt and freshly grated cheese.

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

My parrot is a 5-year-old Cockatiel. He keeps biting me whenever I put my hand near his cage, even though he was friendly before. How do I handle this sudden aggression?

A sudden change in your Cockatiel's behaviour, such as biting, may be caused by fear, hormones, or territorial instincts. Avoid forcing contact – approach slowly and let him feel secure. Look for possible triggers like alterations in routine, cage placement, or new surroundings. Offer treats through the bars and speak gently to rebuild trust. Keep his cage in a calm, well-lit space with plenty of toys and stimulation. Never punish biting, as it can worsen fear. If the aggression continues or you notice feather loss or appetite changes, schedule a veterinary check to exclude any medical concerns.

ASK AN XPERT

FITBIT

MEAL PREP BASICS: HOW TO SAVE TIME AND EAT WELL

Meal prepping is one of the most efficient way to maintain a healthy diet. Rather than not knowing what to cook every day, you spend a small portion of your work planning, cooking and portioning meals. Meal prepping can involve chopping vegetables, cooking grains, marinating proteins or assembling full meals. This is to make your life simple by enjoying healthy meals.

WHY IT MATTERS

- **Consistency in nutrition:** When meals are half or almost prepared, you would not depend on an unhealthy takeout. This will help you make more nutrition choices
- **Time-efficient and reduces decision fatigue:** Meal prep saves you from last-minute stress of making a cooking decision.
- **Cost effective:** Cooking and chopping beforehand in bulk helps you cut down on any food waste and spend your grocery budget decisively.

SMART MEAL-PREP STRATEGIES

- **Batch cooking:** Staple food like whole grains, beans, lentils and proteins can be cooked in bulked. Later, you can mix and match them for preparing any food and keep your food choices interesting.
- **Prep Ingredients, not just meals:** Prepping ingredients such as vegetables, portion herbs and grains help you accelerate cooking throughout the weekday
- **Use versatile bases:** Base components like boiled beans, sautéed vegetables or tomato sauce, can be repurposed in multiple ways. This will helps with your cooking and save you starting from scratch every single time.
- **Invest in good storage:** Use airtight, microwave and freezer safe containers. For better efficiency, you can label the meal with name and date.
- **Freeze wisely:** Freeze meals in portioned containers so that you can use them when needed
- **Overnight options and one-pot meals:** Make overnight oats, chia pudding, or marinated salads for easy breakfasts. Or go for one-pot or sheet-pan meals that require minimal cooking & clean-up.
- **Snack prep:** Portion healthy snacks like nuts, sliced fruits, or yogurt into grab-and-go containers. This prevents impulsive, less healthy snacking.

Meal prep is a practical and scalable way to eat well and save time while reducing stress. With a bit of planning and practice, you can turn nutrition into streamline process on a daily basis.

By Madhura Paroolkar Behki, nutrition expert, cult – a fitness and wellness platform

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Aqua Escape

Walk through India's longest underwater tunnel and take in clear views of colourful fish and calm blue tanks. With family-friendly areas and plenty to explore, it's an easy outing for anyone who wants a quiet break with marine life.

WHEN: December 1, 10.30am
WHERE: Aquarium Paradise, JC Nagar
CALL: 96063 11881

Fun Arcade

Engage yourself in the world of arcade, with over 35 games to choose from, a multi-story indoor go-karting, and laser tag battles. You are in for a ride of adventure and adrenaline high.

WHEN: December 1, 11am
WHERE: Loco Bear, Koramangala
CALL: 96635 55661

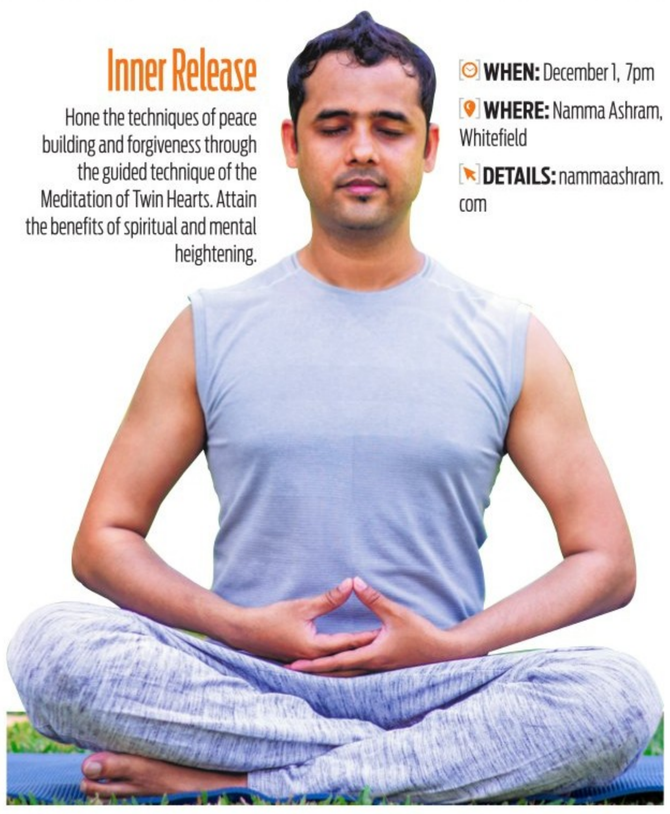
Dance Showcase

Witness the magic of classical dance as **Rukmini Vijayakumar** and her ensemble bring the diverse faces of the Hindu goddesses to life. The performance blends strength, grace and expressive storytelling in a crisp, beautifully crafted production.

WHEN: December 1, 7pm
WHERE: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Inner Release

Hone the techniques of peace building and forgiveness through the guided technique of the Meditation of Twin Hearts. Attain the benefits of spiritual and mental heightening.



WHEN: December 1, 7pm
WHERE: Namma Ashram, Whitefield
DETAILS: nammaashram.com

Fusion Festival

Soak in the deliciousness of Chandni Chawk and China to experience the variety of desi Chinese that's offered all under one roof. Treat your taste buds in fusion fantasy.

WHEN: December 1, 12.30pm
WHERE: Radha Hometel, Brookefield
CALL: 080 662 26969

Comic Relief

Take yourself to an evening to remember with the smokiest of comedians and their cleverest of quips, all during the Monday hustle, amidst the bustling heart of the city.

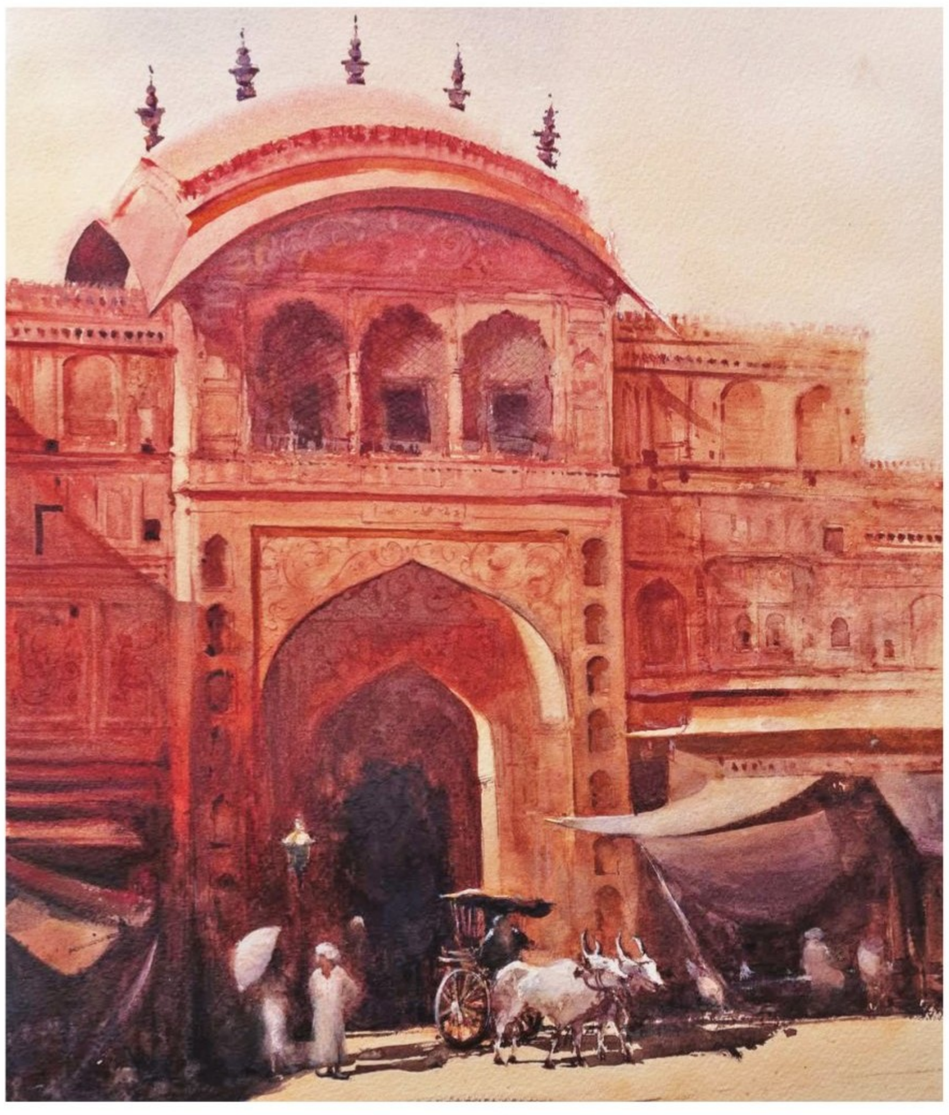
WHEN: December 1, 9pm
WHERE: The Underground Comedy Club, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookshow.com

Clay Creations

Get handsy and messy with air-dry clay to mould your own little bouquet to fit your creativity, perfect for gifting and decor. No prior experience needed.

WHEN: December 1, 2pm
WHERE: Thirdspace, Hosur Road
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

ARTCORNER



ROYAL SETTINGS

In a plein-air painting set in Rajasthan, artist Harsh Agrawal paints sunlit arches, dusty pathways, bullock carts, and busy streets

RUBINATIONS
Rubi Chakravarti
Writer, actor and funny girl

FOOD & MOODS

Bia Sandhu, Shyam Kumar and Alka Dev

I am at that stage in my life where I have stopped over-explaining myself or justifying my line of action. I read something quite awe-inspiring the other day. It said, 'convince yourself that you have done the best that you could, rather than spending your life convincing others that you did'. Spot on and unmistakably correct, I have to say!

But I have noticed, the moment I feel insecure, thoughtful or pensive, nothing cheers me up like good food. It needn't be from posh hotels or restaurants. Hot podi idlis, buttery masala dosae or a vada pav can do the trick. The funny thing is that the more high-calorie the food is, the more the satisfaction! I doubt a bowl of boiled sprouted beans could conjure up the same state of bliss. There is a correct correlation in the secretion of dopamine, serotonin, endorphins, and oxytocin in calorific foods that do the trick of mood elevation. Others do it by exercising and the smart ones (like yours truly) do it by masticating!

On one such rather gloomy day, I received a massive package which emitted the most heavenly aromas. On closer inspection, it was a package from a new S.E. Asian cloud kitchen called Shoyu. When the tag-line read 'premium Pan-Asian delivery by offering restaurant-quality dishes at home – straight out of the box,' I was more than sceptical! I have been at the receiving end of soggy noodles and limp dim-sums, and I know that Pan-Asian food tastes like cardboard when cold. But what impressed me was the thoughtfully designed eco-friendly packaging customised to preserve the three 'T's, temperature, texture and taste, that ensured every dish arrived just right. Brilliant!

Naga Chaitanya & Varun Tripuraneni

Shoyu is the brainchild of two young entrepreneurs, Varun Tripuraneni and megastar Naga Chaitanya, two foodies who wanted Bangalore to experience their already successful chain of cloud kitchens. Their produce is fresh, their menu is vast and innovative, and one can see the meticulous planning and execution of their enterprise. Just the way it should be. Brains, beauty and brawn! Maybe the bigger restaurants and hotels should take a leaf out of their books on how to sustain the flavour and temperature while delivering their food.

Whitefield is in another country altogether, and travelling to and fro with unorganised traffic, the mysterious Harry Potter-esque railways (metros that are perennially under construction), to belching trucks and buses, autos and two-wheelers with a suicidal complex, the journey from town is fraught with danger! But, when one reaches there, the amazing views of the orange sunset from the pool deck of DoubleTree by Hilton are sublime. Their GM, the dapper, Shyam Kumar invited us for the launch of the picturesque Captain Chip's deck serving hot grills, cocktails and small plates on a cool winter evening. The evening was perfect, with a small group of people (who had braved the traffic), a crooner and a very attentive staff serving some amazing cocktails. A lovely star-lit evening!

This brings me to the absolutely horrifying state of the roads and traffic. We cannot get away by saying Bangalore has 'great weather' anymore. There are more than enough monies and intelligentsia represented in namma ooru. If 'they' can't fight for our beloved city, then we must. It is ridiculous to comprehend that an 8-10 km stretch sometimes takes two hours to traverse.

Let's act, not expound!

(The writer's views are personal)

NUGGETS

Yakshagana production reimagines Vaali Moksha

Sri Idagunji Mahaganapati Yakshagana Mandali, Keremane, is presenting a new stage adaptation of *Vaali Moksha*, drawn from the *Aranya Kanda* of the *Ramayana* on December 12 at 7.30pm at Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield. The production reinterprets Parthi Subba's 16th-century Yakshagana text, bringing the conflict between the human and vanara worlds to life through a movement-driven approach. The performance highlights the fall of Vaali and the pivotal alliance between Rama and Sugreeva, shaping the narrative with a clear, cinematic flow. Traditionally performed as Taalamaddale, this version introduces expanded visual elements – including reimagined uses of the tere – to build shifting landscapes and emotional spaces. Blending classical structure with contemporary staging, the show spans moods of love, wonder, sorrow and tranquility, making it accessible to both long-time Yakshagana audiences and newcomers.

Concert series showcases Carnatic music duo

The Nadathur Foundation is presenting the fourth edition of its concert series 'Nada Sambhrama,' aimed at promoting Indian classical music and providing a platform for both established and emerging artistes. The event will be held on December 6 at 6.30pm at the Mangala Mandapa Auditorium, NMKRV Campus, with free entry for all attendees. This edition features a Carnatic music concert by the Trichur Brothers – **TS Srikrishna Mohan** and **TS Ramkumar Mohan** – known for their dynamic style and strong traditional grounding. The two-hour programme continues the series' focus on celebrating excellence in classical performance and fostering cultural appreciation.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AARTHI.P,** daughter of **Harosagara Mata Hemaiah**, aged about 32 years, residing at No. 101, First Floor, Prashanti Balu Enclave, South Cross Road, Near Kariappa Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore South, Bengaluru – 560004, have changed my name to **AARTI.P** vide affidavit dated: 27/11/2025 Before Notary **R. Basavaraja.** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **LALITHA BHADRI NARAYANA** R/at No. 439, 38th Cross, 9th Main Road 5th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore- 560041 have changed name to **LALITHA BHADRI** Vide affidavit dated: 29/11/2025 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MANPREET JAGJEET SACHDEV** (Old Name), Resident at No.54, 3rd A Cross, VERSOVA LAYOUT, C V RAMAN NAGAR POST, Bengaluru -560093 have changed my name to **MANPREET SACHDEV** (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 25/11/2025 Before Notary **SIVAKUMARA.M.N** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MELCHIUS KUMAR. K** R/at No. 6/29, 9th Cross, 4th Main Road, ADARSH NAGAR, New Vijayanagar Layout Chamrajpet Bengaluru - 560018 have changed my name to **MELQUES KUMAR. K** vide affidavit dated: 29/11/2025 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **M. SOUFIYA SULTANA** R/at No. 16/A, 9th Main Road, Opp Elahi Nursing Home, Padrayanapura, Bengaluru - 560026 have changed my name to **M. SOWFIYA SULTHANA** vide affidavit dated: 29/11/2025 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PROMODAN P, residing at #49, Narayaniyam, 5th Cross, Bhoo Vaibhava Residential Layout, Kyalasanahalli, Kothanur, Bengaluru 560077, have changed my name to **PRAMODAN P** vide Affidavit Dated: 29/11/2025 sworn before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, FATIMABI DILAWARKHAN GURRANI, W/o. Shaikh Mohammed Ashraf, residing at #150/1, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, Doddanna Lane, Venkateshpuram, Bengaluru North, Arabic College Post, Bengaluru 560045 have changed my name to **SHAIKH BIBI FATIMA** vide Affidavit Dated: 28/11/2025 sworn before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, AFSAL ARRANGALI, S/o. Ismail Arangali, residing at #97, 1st Main, 1st Cross, RHB Colony, Mahadevapura Post, Bengaluru 560048, have changed my name to **AFSAL ARANGALI,** vide Affidavit Dated: 29/11/2025 sworn before Notary S.I.BALAGURU, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KUMUDHAVALLI MANIVANNAN,** D/o SUBRAMANIAM MUNUSWAMY, & RAJATHIAMMALSUBRAMANIAM, agedabout 50 years, R/at FLAT No. G4, ASHIANA ENCLAVE, BYRASANDRA MAIN ROAD, GM PALYA, Bengaluru -560075, Karnataka, India have changed my name to **KUMUDHAVALLI SUBRAMANIAM,** vide affidavit dated: 29.11.2025 before Notary **S.I. Balaguru,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VENKATAMMA O,** D/o Subbiah, presently R/at No. 576, 5th Cross, Lalbagh Siddapura, Venkata Reddy Nagar, Jayanagar 1st Block, Bangalore South, Jayanagar III Block, Bangalore-560 011 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VENKATAMMA .O** to **MUTHYALAMMA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **MUTHYALAMMA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 28th Nov. 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **H.H. NAGARAJ** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHRISHA NAYAK,** S/o Nagar Shubhakar Nayak, aged about 22 years, R/at # 2012, 24th A Cross, 8th Main, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 070 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NAGAR SHRISHA NAYAK** to **SHRISHA NAYAK,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHRISHA NAYAK** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 29th November 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **D.K. RAMESHAPPA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHANUREKHA KILARI,** (DOB : 24.06.1977) W/o. Mr. Siva Kumar Kilari, Presently residing at House No. 5, Ground Floor, 'Shalom', 2nd Cross, Ayyappa Layout, behind KMF Dairy, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037, Karntaka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PADALA BHANUREKHA** to **BHANUREKHA KILARI,** vide affidavit dated 29.11.2025, sworn to before K.V. Jagannath Reddy, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Shankarappa B Valmiki,** aged about 37 years, residing at # 56, 1st Cross, Siddalinga Nagar, Vinny Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023, do hereby declare that I have changed my minor son's name from **Tharun .S** to **Tarun .S,** vide affidavit dated 27.11.2025, sworn to before Aruna .V, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **MAHAVEER CHAND MEHTA** S/o. Kishan Chand Mehta, Aged 64 years, Residing at # 126, 3rd Main Road, Between 8th & 9th Cross, Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560 018, do hereby declare that, **MAHAVEER CHAND MEHTA** and **MAHAVEER MEHTA** both the names belongs to me only & the names are one and the same. Presently for all identification proofs, I am called as **MAHAVEER CHAND MEHTA** vide affidavit dated 28.11.2025 sworn to before T.C. Thimmaraja, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **NAGARATHNA** W/o. Sakappa, aged about 44 years, resident of # 40, Ambedkar Nagar, 2nd Cross, Near Govt. School, Kudlu Village, Singasandra, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560068, do hereby declare that **NAGARTHNA** and **RATHNAMMA** and **NAGARATHNA** all the names refer and belong to me and all the names are one and the same person, and belong to me, vide affidavit dated 27.11.2025, sworn to before Aruna .V, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **YEFFNA POONACHA,** aged about 42 years, D/o. Poonacha C N, No. 139, Radiant Karel Mysore Road, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru-560039, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **YEFFNA C P (YEFFNA CHEERANDA POONACHA)** to **YEFFNA POONACHA,** vide affidavit dated 29.11.2025, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NAGESH HEMREDDY JEKREDDY** (New Name), resident of No. 36/22, G2, Sriram Apartments, Papu cottage, Kanakapura Main road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from **JEKAREDDY NAGESH HEMAREDDY** (Old Name) to **NAGESH HEMREDDY JEKREDDY** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called **NAGESH HEMREDDY JEKREDDY** (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 29/11/2025, before Notary H.S. DHARMA PRASAD, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NISHAD** W/O BABA JAN aged about 54 years, residing at NO.289, 9th CROSS, KG HALLI, ARABIC COLLEGE, VINOBHA NAGAR, VENKATESHAPURA, BANGALORE-560045, have changed my name from **NISHAD BABAJAN** to **NISHAD,** vide affidavit dated 29/11/2025 sworn to before Onkarappa N R Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JYOTHI J U,** D/o Umamaheshwaraiah, age 41 years, R/at Flat No. 001, Affinity Fidelity Apartments, Pine Street, Ramanashree California Garden, Puttenahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560 064 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **JYOTHI J U** and **Dr. JYOTIKA** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **Dr. JYOTIKA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 27-11-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **RAJESHWARI** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **PRATHEEKSH,** S/o Late T P John, age 47 years, R/o Flat No. C205, Penesula Pinnacles, Exide Factory Raod, near to DS Max Apartment, Billapura, Sarjapura, Bangalore-562 125 do hereby declare that in my passport my name is wrongly mentioned as **PRATHEESH JOHN** instead of **PRATHEEKSH JOHN** and my father name is wrongly mentioned as **THARAYIL PETER JOHN** instead of **T P JOHN,** vide affidavit dated 29-11-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **ROOPA G BHANDARE** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, (1) **Chandrakumar Rathankumar** and (2) **Jayapriya Chandrakumar,** resident of #101, 1st Floor, Anugraha Paradise, 1st Cross Road, Lakshmipathi Layout, Kariyanapalya, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru 560084, have changed the name of our daughter from **D.C.SAI HARINI** to **SAI HARINI D C** and name of her father has been changed from **D.R.CHANDRA KUMAR** to **CHANDRAKUMAR RATHANKUMAR** and name of her mother has been changed from **D.C.JAYA PRIYA** to **JAYAPRIYA CHANDRAKUMAR** vide Affidavit Dated: 26/11/2025, sworn before Notary **S.I.BALAGURU,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Sandesh. V.L**, S/o. Lokappa Gowda. V.S, Aged about 37 years, Residing at # 779, SVM Layout 4th Block, Chikbasthi, Ullala - Bengaluru - 560 056, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Sandesh. V.L** to **BHARATH RAJ** vide affidavit dated 28.11.2025 sworn to before B. Chitra, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VINAY GUNDENAHALLI JAYACHANDRAPPA** S/o Jayachandrappa G.V, aged about 47 years, R/at No. 339, 11th road, Ascent County Layout, Kempalin ganahalli, Visveswarapura, Bengaluru rural, Karnataka - 562123, I declare that, I am the father of **Chinmay Gundenahalli Vinay** and he is aged about 15 years. I declare that my son's name **"Chinmay Gundenahalli Vinay"** and **"G.V. Chinmay"** is one and the same person and relates to my son only. In future my son's name continued as **Chinmay Gundenahalli Vinay,** vide affidavit dated 28/11/2025 sworn to before B Hanumantharaya Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AMBATI VENKATA PRASAD** aged about 20 years (D.O.B 14.03.2005), S/O. Mr. KONDA REDDY doing Private (give profession or vocation) and Resident at No.57, 11th Main Road, 7th Cross, Near Kaivara Temple, Raghavendra Layout, KG Halli,, Jalahalli West, Bangalore North, Bangalore, karnataka state, India, I have change my name **VENKATA PRASAD TO AMBATI VENKATA PRASAD,** Before advocate and notary by **V ANJANAPPA.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VENKATESH N.,** aged about 40 years, resident of Samanduru Village, Kasaba, Anekal Taluk- 562106, hereby state on behalf of my minor son **V. PRAVEEN KUMAR**, that in his school records his name is entered as **PRAVEEN KUMAR,** instead of **V. PRAVEEN KUMAR.** Hence this affidavit to produce before competent authorities for rectification in school records & etc., Sworn to before Notary C.N. Sreekanta Sastry on 28-11-2025 at Anekal.

CHANGE (CORRECTION) OF NAME
I, **R. VIJAYANAND JOIS, S/o. RAVIKANTHA JOIS,** R/o. No. 85, Malathesha Nilaya, Opp. Brahma Temple, Behind Government Primary School, Kariobanahalli Village, Andrahalli Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 073, have changed my name as **"R. VIJAYANAND JOIS" S/o. RAVIKANTHA JOIS,** and the Aadhar Card, PAN Card, other testimonials, will be corrected in due course of time, as per the affidavit dt. 28.11.2025 sworn to before the Notary, C.Srinivasa.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VINAY GUNDENAHALLI JAYACHANDRAPPA** S/o Jayachandrappa G.V, aged about 47 years, R/at No. 339, 11th road, Ascent County Layout, Kempalin ganahalli, Visveswarapura, Bengaluru rural, Karnataka - 562123, I declare that, I am the father of **Chinmay Gundenahalli Vinay** and he is aged about 15 years. I declare that my son's name **"Chinmay Gundenahalli Vinay"** and **"G.V. Chinmay"** is one and the same person and relates to my son only. In future my son's name continued as **Chinmay Gundenahalli Vinay,** vide affidavit dated 28/11/2025 sworn to before B Hanumantharaya Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AMBATI VENKATA PRASAD** aged about 20 years (D.O.B 14.03.2005), S/O. Mr. KONDA REDDY doing Private (give profession or vocation) and Resident at No.57, 11th Main Road, 7th Cross, Near Kaivara Temple, Raghavendra Layout, KG Halli,, Jalahalli West, Bangalore North, Bangalore, karnataka state, India, I have change my name **VENKATA PRASAD TO AMBATI VENKATA PRASAD,** Before advocate and notary by **V ANJANAPPA.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DASARI SUREKHA,**aged about 34 years (D.O.B.: 15-06-1991), W/o. Sri. DASARI SREENIVAS RAO, doing Govt (give profession or vocation) and Resident at: No.51, Mariyamma House, Abbigere Dinne, Abbigere, Chikkabanavara Post, Bengaluru-560090, I have change my name **BAIRI SUREKHA TO DASARI SUREKHA** Before advocate and notary by **V.ANJANAPPA.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **G Indurani** unmarried daughter of No. **7079875W,** Rank : Ex Nk, Name : **(Late) C.S Gopal, presently residing at 296, 9th Cross, Thamare Kannan Road, Murphy Town, Halasuru, Bangalore – 560 008,** Karnataka do hereby declare that both the names i.e **IWDIRANI** and **G Indurani** are one and the same belongs to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **G Indurani** only vide affidavit dated 28th Nov. 2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary, Uday Kumar K, Govt of India Reg No 22116, No 15, 1st Main, 1st Cross Chinappa Layout, Kempapura Bengaluru – 560 024 at Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mr. **ARUNA CHANNAPPANAHATTI MAHADEVAPPA,** Aged about 44 Years, S/o. Mahadevappa, residing at No. D-08, 6th Cross, Prakruthi Nagar, Bangalore North, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064, have changed my son's name from **DAIVIK ARUN SAVITHA to DAIVIK ARUN** vide Affidavit dated 29/11/2025 sworn before advocate and notary S.R. Ravikumar, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Prajwal Prakash, S/o Mr. Prakash Phillipose, aged about 20 years, residing at No.27/28, Bagalur Road, Kattigenhalli, IAF Post, Yelahanka, Bangalore 560064, have changed my name from **Philipose Prajwal Prakash to Prajwal Prakash,** My father's name from **Prakash Philipose to Prakash** vide Affidavit dated 29/11/2025 sworn before advocate and notary C.R. Ravichandra Reddy, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Prakash Phillipose, S/o Mr. Phillipose, aged about 55 years, residing at No.27/28, Bagalur Road, Kattigenhalli, IAF Post, Yelahanka, Bangalore 560064, have changed my name from **Prakash Philipose to Prakash Phillipose,** My father's name from **Philipose Daniel to Phillipose.** vide Affidavit dated 29/11/2025 sworn before advocate and notary C.R. Ravichandra Reddy, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ETHIRAJA .J, D.O.B: 05.02.1968, S/o. Jayapal Raju, Resident of No. 350, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, Near Biz Bazar, Maruthinagar, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru -560094, have changed my name to **ETHIRAJU JAYAPAL RAJU** vide affidavit dated: 29.11.2025 before notary GANGARAJU .B.N, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, BIBI AYESHA, residing at No. 33, 1st Cross Janibai Compound, Khureshi Masjid, DJ Halll, Arabic College, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my name to **BIBI AYESHA SHABAZ KHAN** vide affidavit dated: 24.11.2025 before notary M. Rajendra, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SYED SADIQ SYED IKBAL, residing at No. 58 Second Floor, 7th Gross Near Rasheediya Masjid Govindpura, Bengaluru 500045, have changed my name to **SYED SADIQ** vide affidavit dated: 24.11.2025 before notary M. Rajendra, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, ABDULLA RASHEED SHARIFF FAZL, S/o. Abdulla Fazl, aged about 42 years, residing at FEAYRA, No. 333 2nd Main, 7th Cross, Pennfield Garden, Telecom Layout, Srirampura, Bangalore – 560064 hereby intend to correct my name in my Driving Licence from **ABDULLA RASHEED SHARIFF** to **ABDULLA RASHEED SHARIFF FAZL** and that of my father from A Fazl to Abdulla Fazl respectively and hereby declare that Abdulla Rasheed Shariff & Abdulla Rasheed Shariff Fazl and A Fazl & Abdulla Fazl are one and the same person.
Sd/-
A.R.Muneer Ahmed
Advocate & Notary
Mob: 9845712075

AFFIDAVIT
I, UMME SALMA C/o. Mohammed Hashim, aged about 37 years, residing at No. 2, DS Max Sprint Apartment, N.P. Factory Road, Kavalbyrasandra, Bengaluru -560032. I declare that my first name is UMME and second name is SALMA. I declare that my two names entered in my all documents is UMME SALMA. I declare that my surname Hashim was removed in my all documents and First Name is UMME and last name is SALMA reflex in all records. I declare that the TWO names (1) UMME and (2) SALMA the said names both are single name and the same and belongs to me only. Sworn to before me Notary R. Sulakshana, Vide affidavit dated: 28th November, 2025, Bangalore.

'Working with Prabhas in *Fauzi* is a great learning experience'

CE FEATURES

CHAITHRA J Achar has carved a distinctive space for herself in Kannada cinema with acclaimed performances in *Taledanda*, *Toby*, *Saptha Sagaradaache Ello: Side B*, and *Blink*. She is now simultaneously working in films beyond Kannada. After making her Tamil debut with *3BHK* alongside Siddharth, the actor has stepped into the Telugu industry with her biggest project yet.

She is set to make her Telugu debut with *Fauzi*, a period war action drama starring Prabhas and directed by Hanu Raghavapudi. The film also features newcomer Imanvi, and veterans like Mithun Chakraborty, Jayaprada, and Anupam Kher. Chaithra recently joined the sets of the film. "The filming has begun on a very interesting note," she tells us from the location.

Chaithra believes that *Fauzi* came at an important juncture of her acting career, and a project of this magnitude is a novel experience. "Being part of *Fauzi* is important on a couple of levels," she says. "I get to work in a big film, and working with Prabhas itself is a great learning experience. I want to understand how huge productions function, the rhythm of the set, the craft, and the attention to detail that goes into making a film of this scale. I am excited about the role because it is key to the story. Big or small does not matter to me. What matters is the world the film builds, and on that front, *Fauzi* is on another level."

Chaithra Achar, who has begun shooting for the film, says it is interesting to be part of such a big-scale project, and her first interactions with Prabhas

Reminiscing her first meeting with Prabhas, Chaitra says, "Apparently, the director had already shown him a few of my shots. So when I introduced myself, he said that he'd already seen some clips of my work and found them interesting. Although he is very shy, I made sure to tell him that I am a huge fan of his film Mirchi and that I have watched it at least 25 times. That was our initial conversation, and I hope I get to talk to him more as the shoot progresses."

Back in Kannada, Chaithra is gearing up for the release of Maarnami, which is expected to be released in multiple languages. While Chaitra has also signed another Telugu project, she is waiting for the makers to make the official announcement.

Chaithra Achar

A drumbeat of rage and unyielding dignity

A SHARADHAA

BICCHUGATTHIYA BANTANNA BALLIRENA
Director: Anil Dorasamundra
Cast: Cheluvaraj Gowda, Basuma Kodagu, Sweedal Dsouza, and Punya Kotyan

CINEMA rarely tackles caste without simplifying it into a straightforward moral lesson. Director Anil Dorasamundra avoids that comfort in his film *Bicchugatthiya Bantanna Ballirena*. The film shows caste in its raw, messy form, letting the dirt speak for itself. It draws life from the pages of the 1933 novel Chomana Dudi while feeling like an echo of that earlier cry, as if Choma's drumbeat still connects somewhere in the Western Ghats, waiting for someone to pick it up.

Set in 1947 amidst the lush yet unforgiving hills, Cheluvaraj Gowda plays Kaala, the reluctant heir to his father's unfulfilled dream of owning land. His father (Basuma Kodagu) yearned for a small piece of land, a symbol of dignity and belonging. When that dream died with him, the weight fell on Kaala's shoulders, along with the responsibility for his sister (Punya Kotyan) and his right to a name. Every request he makes to the landlord (Shylesh Kengeri) for land is met with indifference, and the landlord's son (Yashas B) treats his pleas with contempt. When he says, "You want a field? Do you even have buffaloes to till it?" the words cut deeper than any whip.

Humiliation seeps into every corner of Kaala's life. The priest flinches whenever he walks by. Villagers wipe the pot after he touches it. The river that could save his younger brother offers no mercy on the day of drowning because compassion is caste-bound. The land, the water, and even the air seem divided. The film does not dramatise this; it shows the slow decay of dignity with painful clarity.

Amid this, Janet (Punya Kotyan), Kaala's sister, carries wounds too deep for loud tears. She endures betrayal, abandonment, and a child born of shame when the man responsible denies fatherhood. Her suffering reflects the harshest realities of caste. Jenny (Sweedel D'Souza) enters Kaala's life with conditions for love. Her father demands he convert, leave his sister, and erase his past. Love becomes a contract, faith a commodity. Kaala resists, clinging to his identity even when the world asks him to give up everything.

Beneath the simmering pain, anger grows. It is not a loud roar but a quiet pressure until rebellion is the only escape. Kaala's sickle becomes his voice, each swing a sentence he was never allowed to speak. After years of suppression, the ancestral drum roars again as a rebel's anthem. When a few tormentors die, the landlord brushes it off, saying perhaps a wild animal wandered by. Where caste is law, a tiger's tracks are more believable than the rage of a lower-caste man.

RATING 2.5/5

Technically, the film is well-crafted. Music by Shri Sastha conveys the earth's pulse through rustic drums and haunting melodies. Cinematography presents the Ghats not as scenic beauty but as a living, suffocating prison.

By the close, the film may waver in pace and brush against melodrama, yet its core truth remains unshaken. Land becomes longing. Caste remains the oldest villain. Kaala stands not as a hero but as a question. He does not seek revenge. He seeks recognition. He does not aim to change the world. He demands to be remembered. In that defiance, the film finds its pulse and leaves the audience with the quiet roar of a man who refuses to kneel.

Ranveer Singh criticised for *Kantara* imitation

CE FEATURES

RANVEER Singh is drawing flak on social media for calling the 'daiva' shown in the film *Kantara Chapter 1* as a "female ghost".

Ranveer and Kantara actor and director Rishab Shetty attended the closing ceremony of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2025. During the event, Ranveer praised the latter's performance in the film and also imitated the film's climax scene while referring to the 'daiva' as a "female ghost."

However, his remarks and act did not sit well with a section of social media users, who called it insensitive and disrespectful. One comment read, "How can actors lack basic understanding of what should and shouldn't be said? It is extremely disrespectful for people from the South that their goddess is being referred to as a female ghost." Another wrote, "To be honest, I found it quite offensive. Ranveer should know better." A third user commented, "It is absolute disrespect to the daivas." Another said, "Ghost? He should have been more careful with his words — this is extremely tone-deaf."

One of the comments read, "This is so disrespectful. She is not a ghost but a goddess herself." Another wrote, "What an unaware and disrespectful man. His wife belongs to the same geographical region as the daiva tradition. At least show some respect." This controversy just comes a week before the release of Ranveer's actioner Dhurandhar. Helmed by Aditya Dhar, the film also stars Arjun Rampal, Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna and R Madhavan.

The compelling chapter is still waiting to be told

A SHARADHAA

AFRER OPERATION LONDON CAFE
Director: Sadagara Raghavendra
Cast: Kaveesh Shetty, Megha Shetty, B Suresha, Ashwini Chavare, Shivani Surve, Virat Madake, Arjun Kapikad, Krishna Hebbale, and Ninasam Ashwath

DIRECTOR Sadagara Raghavendra's *After Operation London Cafe* doesn't open with urgency; it opens with caution, almost as if the film is listening to its own heartbeat before letting us hear it. The early minutes allow the forest and its stillness to settle in, a deceptive calm that masks a world constantly rearranging itself: ideologies shifting, loyalties mutating, truths learning to camouflage, and villages being reshaped into forced commercialisation.

And everything is framed by one colour: green. Not the postcard green of the woods, but the contested green of purpose, with uniforms, ideology, and the forest itself locked in one palette. When the same shade becomes both armour and camouflage, both the system and its resistance, the film hints at a larger question: who invades whom? The provocation is sharp, but the film does not push hard enough into its own terrain.

We first see Keshav (Kaveesh Shetty, who also wrote the film) as he is shot by an elderly man in broad daylight, moments after stepping out of jail. It is a jolt that flings the narrative backward into a Naxal camp and their frequent encounters with police and villagers, where the film finally builds momentum. What follows is a dense, sometimes breathless stretch of humiliation, injustice, rumour, and public shaming.

Between a rescue near the forest lake and ideological skirmishes echoing through the camp, Bhavya (Megha Shetty) finds herself drawn to Keshav. The romance aims to make danger its poetry, but the writing stays within predictable emotional zones, unwilling to disturb the film's political ground.

The story tightens when Syed, a commanding officer, enters the forest grid. His arrival corners the rebels and exposes fractures within the group. The film's protagonist emerges as a man torn between conviction and exhaustion. Here the question arises: when does a soldier become a traitor? This is where the big reveal lands: Keshav was once Shourya, an army officer. It is a twist that should have ignited the film's moral core, but the second half loses its edge. Tensions flatten, scenes repeat emotional patterns, and the film slips into a simpler mould of love, jealousy, and revenge instead of deepening its ideological conflict.

The craft stays steady. The forests are filmed as psychological landscapes, with RD Nagarjun capturing nature at its best, with rivers and trees that seem capable of swallowing secrets whole. Virat Madake and Suresha B, among others, make a strong presence within the Naxal ensemble. Megha Shetty brings much-needed lightness to a grim narrative. Kaveesh Shetty's physical presence is striking, especially in action sequences choreographed by Vikram Mor, whose style blends seamlessly with the actor. Prashun Jha contributes a lively layer of songs that punctuate the tense forest environment, while Sadagara Raghavendra directs with a careful eye on mood, character, and tension.

RATING 2.5/5

And then comes the quietest issue. The title never fully lands. The book *Operation London Cafe* appears only in the final moments, a gesture toward a larger story the film is not yet ready to tell. The ending hints at a prequel, suggesting that what we have just watched is merely the middle chapter.

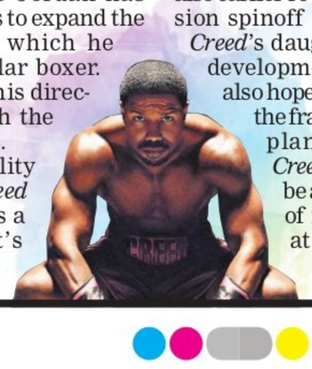
After Operation London Cafe is rich in ideas but uneven in how it chases them. It is ambitious in thought and cautious in execution. It sparks debate and questions and leaves you with the sense that the film's most compelling chapter is perhaps the one still waiting to be told.

Michael B Jordan plans to expand the *Creed* franchise

CE FEATURES

IN a recent interview to promote his upcoming directorial, The Thomas Crowne Affair, Michael B Jordan has confirmed plans to expand the *Creed* films, in which he stars as the titular boxer. The actor made his directorial debut with the 2023 film, *Creed 3*.

On the possibility of a fourth *Creed* film, he said, "It's a franchise that's been really kind to me in a big way. I love MGM and Irwin Winkler and everything they've got going on. I think there's a bit more story to be mined through that." It was also earlier revealed that a television spinoff based on Adonis *Creed*'s daughter was also in development. The actor is also hopeful of returning to the franchise beyond the planned series and *Creed IV*. "I still might be able to get a couple of really good swings at the franchise a bit more," he shared.



Rashmika's *The Girlfriend* gets OTT premiere date

CE FEATURES

THE Girlfriend, the recently released Rashmika Mandanna starrer which emerged as a surprise box office hit, is now gearing up for its OTT premiere. The intense relationship drama will begin streaming on Netflix on December 5.

Written and directed by Rahul Ravindran, *The Girlfriend* tells the story of Bhooma (Rashmika), a young English literature student who accidentally finds herself emboiled in a toxic relationship and in her efforts to come out of it, finds herself. The film also starred Dheekshith Shetty, Anu Emmanuel, Rao Ramesh in lead cast and Rohini in a special cameo. Rahul Ravindran himself played a small role in the film.

Besides receiving rave reviews from most critics and particularly finding a resonance with female audience members, the film also emerged as a box office hit. According to a report from Sacnilk.com, the film collected nearly 29 crores (gross) at the box office worldwide. In our review for the film, we noted, "The biggest accomplishment for the film is how it manages to keep us emotionally invested without going overboard with the 'messaging.' Yes, there is a pertinent point the film wants to make — but driving the heavy heart is a level-headed steering by Rahul Ravindran." The film marked Rahul Ravindran's return as a director after nearly 6 years — his previous directorial was Manmadhudu 2.

Besides Telugu, *The Girlfriend* will also be available for streaming in Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, and Malayalam.

The film was produced by Dheeraj Mogilineni and Vidya Kopineedi under Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainment and Geetha Arts banners while Allu Aravind was onboard as a presenter.